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60794-B/JPW/KRD
 Pocket No.

06/30/00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 30, 2000

S I R:

Transmitted herewith for filing are the specification and claims of the patent application of:

James A. Bonini, Gabriel S. Lerman, Kristine Ogozalek and Yong Quan for
Inventor(s)

DNA Encoding SNORF62 and SNORF72 Receptors

Title of Invention

Also enclosed are:

X 38 sheet(s) of informal X formal drawings.

 Oath or declaration of Applicant(s).

A power of attorney

 An assignment of the invention to

X A Preliminary Amendment

2 A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R.
§1.9 and §1.27.

The filing fee is calculated as follows:

CLAIMS AS FILED, LESS ANY CLAIMS CANCELLED BY AMENDMENT

	NUMBER FILED		NUMBER EXTRA*		RATE		FEE		
					SMALL ENTITY	OTHER ENTITY		SMALL ENTITY	OTHER ENTITY
Total Claims	18 -20	=	0	X	\$9.00	\$18.00	=	\$ 0	\$
Independent Claims	3 -3	=	0	X	\$39.00	\$78.00	=	\$ 0	\$
Multiple Dependent Claims Presented: <u> </u> Yes <u> X </u> No					\$130.00	\$260.00	=	\$ 0	\$
- *If the different in Col. 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2					BASIC FEE			\$345.00	
					TOTAL FEE			\$345.00	\$

Applicants: James A. Bonini, et al.
U.S. Serial No. Not Yet Known
Filed: Herewith

Letter of Transmittal
Page 2

☒ A check in the amount of \$ 345.00 to cover the filing fee.

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with the following or credit any over-payment to Account No. 03-3125:

☒ Filing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16.

☒ Patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.17.

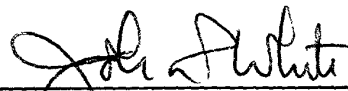
☐ The issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. \$1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. \$1.311(b).

☒ Three copies of this sheet are enclosed.

☐ A certified copy of previously filed foreign application No. _____
_____ filed in _____ on _____
Applicant(s) hereby claim priority based upon this aforementioned
foreign application under 35 U.S.C. §119.

☒ Other (identify) a paper copy of Sequence Listing and computer readable
diskette, Statement in Accordance with 37 CFR \$1.821 (f),
Express Mail Certificate of Mailing bearing label No.
EL525963216US, dated June 30, 2000 and one loose set of
figures (38 sheets)

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : James A. Bonini, et al
U.S. Serial No. : Not Yet Known
Filed : Herewith
For : DNA ENCODING SNORF62 AND SNORF72
RECEPTORS



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June 30, 2000

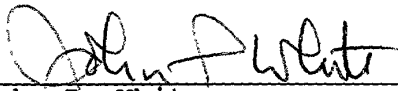
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box: Patent Application

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
FOR ABOVE-IDENTIFIED APPLICATION

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL525963216US
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Printed Name: Samuel R. Haas

Respectfully submitted,


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Applicant or Patentee: James A. Bonini, et al. Attorney's
Serial or Patent No.: Not Yet Known Docket No.: 60794-B/JPW
Filed or Issued: Herewith
Title of Invention or Patent: DNA ENCODING SNORF62 AND SNORF72 RECEPTORS

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING
SMALL ENTITY STATUS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.9(f)
AND §1.27(d) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am:

_____ the owner of the small business concern identified below.

X an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the
concern identified below:

Name of Concern: Synaptic Pharmaceutical Corporation

Address of Concern: 215 College Road
Paramus, New Jersey 07652-1431, U.S.A.

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 C.F.R. §121.3-18, reproduced in 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under 35 U.S.C. §41(a) and §41(b), in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed five hundred (500) persons. For purposes of this verified statement, the number of employees of the business concern is the average number, over the previous fiscal year, of the persons employed by the business concern on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis during each pay period of the fiscal year, and concerns are affiliates of each other when, either directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention entitled

DNA ENCODING SNORF62 AND SNORF72 RECEPTORS
described in:

X the specification filed herewith
_____ application serial no. _____ filed _____
_____ patent no. _____ issued _____

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below^a and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(c)*, any concern which could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d)* or as a nonprofit organization under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(e)*.

Name: N/A

Address: _____

_____ Individual _____ Small Business Concern _____ Nonprofit Organization

^aNOTE: Separate verified statements are required for each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. 37 C.F.R. §1.27.

*See Reverse

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Name of Person Signing: Kathleen P. Mullinix
 Title In Organization: Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
 Address: 215 College Road
Paramus, New Jersey 07652-1431 U.S.A.
 Signature: Kathleen P. Mullinix
 Date Of Signature: June 27, 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : James A. Bonini, et al.
U.S. Serial No. : Not Yet Known
Filed : Herewith
For : DNA ENCODING SNORF62 AND SNORF72
RECEPTORS

1185 Ave of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
June 30, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the subject application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 19-234 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-234 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment applicants have canceled claims 19-234. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are currently pending and under examination.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone the number provided.

Parameter	Value	Unit
Initial Temperature	25.0	°C
Final Temperature	100.0	°C
Heating Rate	10.0	°C/min
Sample Weight	0.5000	g
Sample Name	Sample 1	
Analysis Date	2023-10-27	
Analysis Time	14:30:00	
Operator	John Doe	
Instrument	DSC Q10	
Cell	TA 2050	
Calibration	Good	
Baseline	Flat	
Drift	0.00	W/g
Heat Flow	0.00	W/g
Power	0.00	W
Temperature	25.0	°C
Heat Capacity	0.10	J/g·K
Enthalpy	0.00	J/g
Entropy	0.00	J/g·K
Heat Flow	0.00	W/g
Power	0.00	W
Temperature	100.0	°C
Heat Capacity	0.10	J/g·K
Enthalpy	0.00	J/g
Entropy	0.00	J/g·K
Heat Flow	0.00	W/g
Power	0.00	W
Temperature	25.0	°C
Heat Capacity	0.10	J/g·K
Enthalpy	0.00	J/g
Entropy	0.00	J/g·K
Heat Flow	0.00	W/g
Power	0.00	W
Temperature	100.0	°C
Heat Capacity	0.10	J/g·K
Enthalpy	0.00	J/g
Entropy	0.00	J/g·K
Heat Flow	0.00	W/g
Power	0.00	W

Respectfully submitted,

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DNA ENCODING SNORF62 AND SNORF72 RECEPTORS5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial
15 No. 09/558,099, filed April 25, 2000 which is a
continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/466,435, filed
December 17, 1999, the contents of which are hereby
incorporated by reference into the subject application.

20 Throughout this application various publications are
referred to by partial citations within parenthesis. Full
citations for these publications may be found at the end of
the specification immediately preceding the claims. The
disclosures of these publications, in their entireties, are
hereby incorporated by reference into this application in
order to more fully describe the state of the art to which
the invention pertains.

25 Neuroregulators comprise a diverse group of natural products
that subserve or modulate communication in the nervous
system. They include, but are not limited to,
neuropeptides, amino acids, biogenic amines, lipids and
lipid metabolites, and other metabolic byproducts. Many of
these neuroregulator substances interact with specific cell
surface receptors which transduce signals from the outside
to the inside of the cell. G-protein coupled receptors
30 (GPCRs) represent a major class of cell surface receptors
with which many neurotransmitters interact to mediate their
effects. GPCRs are characterized by seven membrane-spanning
domains and are coupled to their effectors via G-proteins
linking receptor activation with intracellular biochemical
35 sequelae such as stimulation of adenylyl cyclase. This
application describes the identification of two GPCRs,

SNORF62 and SNORF72, as receptors for neuromedin U (NMU) neuropeptides.

Neuropeptides are synthesized and released from neurons to mediate their effects on cells within the nervous system or on peripheral targets. NMU-25 and NMU-8 are bioactive peptides originally isolated from porcine spinal cord (Minamino, N. et al. 1985a and 1985b). NMU-8 corresponds to the C-terminus of porcine NMU-25 preceded by Arg-Arg residues and may therefore be generated by enzymatic cleavage. NMU homologues have been identified in many species including human (25 amino acids) and rat (23 amino acids).

The amino acid sequence for human NMU-25 is as follows:

F R V D E E F Q S P F A S Q S R G Y F L F R P R N-NH₂
(SEQ ID NO: 5).

The amino acid sequence for porcine NMU-25 is as follows:

F K V D E E F Q G P I V S Q N R R Y F L F R P R N-NH₂
(SEQ ID NO: 6).

The amino acid sequence for rat NMU-23 is as follows:

Y K V N E - Y Q G P - V A P S G G F F L F R P R N-NH₂
(SEQ ID NO: 7) (- indicates gaps in rat NMU-23 sequence to demonstrate optimum alignment).

The amino acid sequence for NMU-8 is Y F L F R P R N-NH₂ (SEQ ID NO: 8). All of the preceding sequences were taken from Nandha and Bloom 1993 and Austin, et al. 1995.

Interestingly, the 8 carboxy-terminal residues of human NMU-25 are identical to those in porcine, rabbit and guinea pig NMU and differ only by one residue from the C-terminus of frog, rat, dog and chicken NMU (Austin et al. 1995). C-terminal NMU peptides (8 - 9 amino acids) have also been

identified in guinea pig, chicken and dog tissue extracts (Minamino et al. 1985a and 1985b, Domin et al. 1989, O'Harte et al. 1991). Indeed, the region of rat NMU-23 critical for smooth muscle contractile activity was found to reside between residues 17 - 22 (C-terminal region) (Hashimoto et al. 1991, Sakura et al. 1991). However, other groups have demonstrated the necessity of the amidated C-terminal asparagine (Asn23) for activity as well (Nandha and Bloom 1993). Full length NMU is approximately 3-fold more potent than NMU-8 in smooth muscle contraction assays suggesting that the N-terminal region of the peptide also contributes to the activity (Nandha and Bloom, 1993). Several residues in the middle region of the peptide are conserved between species including Glu5, Gln8 and Pro10 supporting the functional importance of this region of the peptide (Nandha and Bloom, 1993). The C-terminus of NMU shares some homology with rat pancreatic polypeptide (PP): Leu-X-Arg-Pro-Arg-X-amide and contains a terminal asparaginamide also present in vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP) (Nandha and Bloom 1993). However, the structure of NMU is unrelated to the other neuromedin peptides isolated by Minamino et al. (1985a,b).

A profound effect of NMU has been observed in rats on the *in vivo* release of stress-related modulators from the anterior pituitary and adrenal glands (reviewed in Malendowicz and Markowska 1994). Following a single subcutaneous injection of NMU-8 (6 µg/ 100g body weight), adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) blood concentrations are elevated transiently (3 - 12 hours) and plasma corticosterone levels remain elevated for 24 hours (Malendowicz et al., 1993). In addition, the stress-evoked rise in corticosterone was absent in rats treated for 6 days with NMU-8 (Malendowicz et al. 1994a). Since corticosterone exerts both mineralocorticoid and glucocorticoid effects, regulation of

its release by NMU ligands would be expected to modulate fluid homeostasis, ionic balance and metabolism. Although the mechanisms that mediate these effects remain unclear, identification of NMU-like immunoreactivity in nerve fibers in the rat hypothalamic paraventricular and supraoptic nuclei suggest a potential role for NMU in the hypothalamic regulation of pituitary function (Steel et al. 1988).

The corticosterone releasing effects of NMU may be mediated in part by direct effects on the adrenal gland. In rat adrenal gland slices, NMU-8 markedly increased basal corticosterone and pregnenolone steroid secretion (Malendowicz et al. 1994a and 1994b). These effects require the presence of adrenal medulla suggesting that NMU-8 acts on medullary chromaffin cells which may stimulate cells of the cortex through a paracrine mechanism. On the other hand, rat NMU-23 directly decreased basal corticosterone secretion from isolated rat inner adrenocortical cells (in the absence of medullary cells) while NMU-8 was without effect (Malendowicz and Nussdorfer 1993). This discrepancy between NMU-23 and NMU-8 effects on adrenal cortical cells suggests that the NMU receptor in these cells differs from that responsible for smooth muscle contraction. Repeated NMU-8 administration also decreased adrenal weight and the number of cells in the zona reticularis, further suggesting a stimulatory role for NMU on adrenal gland (Malendowicz et al. 1994a). NMU ligands may therefore be useful for directly regulating secretion from the adrenal gland.

Although NMU-like immunoreactivity has not been demonstrated within the adrenal gland or circulating in plasma, corticotrophs within the anterior lobe of rat and human pituitary gland contain high levels of NMU-like immunoreactivity (Steel et al. 1988) suggesting a possible hormonal role for NMU. Co-release of NMU with other

bioactive peptides is likely to occur since NMU was observed by electron microscopy to be present in the same secretory granules as ACTH and galanin (Cimini et al. 1993).

Furthermore, both ACTH and NMU are present in human
5 pituitary corticotropinomas as well as in ACTH expressing tumors from a variety of other tissue sources (Steel et al. 1988). Supporting a potential hormonal role of NMU, is the identification of a small population of NMU positive parafollicular C-cells in rat thyroid gland (Domin et al. 1990 and Lo et al. 1992).

Activities of this peptide also include a hypertensive effect when given intravenously to rats at a high dose (1 nmole; Gardiner et al. 1990). However, at a lower dose (0.1 nmole), NMU caused potent constrictor effects on the superior mesenteric vascular bed reducing mesenteric blood flow without changing systemic blood pressure. The NMU-induced reduction in mesenteric blood flow was also demonstrated in dog (Sumi et al. 1987). In addition, a
20 slight increase in blood flow to the pancreas was measured in these experiments. Such actions suggest the involvement of NMU in the regulation of blood flow to the digestive tract and subsequent effects on digestion.

NMU was originally isolated based on its potent uterine contractile activity *in vitro* and has contractile activity on other smooth muscle preparations including chicken crop (Minamino, N. et al. 1985a, 1985b). Isolated muscle strips from the dome of the human urinary bladder were also
25 contracted by NMU (Maggi et al. 1990) suggesting a role for this peptide in urinary control. NMU-like immunoreactivity has been identified in high levels in the rat genito-urinary systems including vas deferens, prostate, fallopian tube, urethra, vagina, ovary and uterus (reviewed in Nandha and
30 Bloom 1993). Smooth muscle contractile or other hormonal
35

effects of NMU in these tissues may regulate urinary control and/or reproductive functions.

Along with many other neuropeptides, NMU is present in nerves throughout the gastrointestinal tract (reviewed in Nandha and Bloom 1993). NMU stimulates contraction of isolated longitudinal muscle of human ileum (Maggi et al. 1990) and rat stomach circular muscle (Benito-Orfila et al. 1991) suggesting a role for NMU in gastric emptying and intestinal motility. Interestingly, porcine jejunum (Brown and Quito 1988) and guinea pig small intestine (Minamino et al. 1985b) are not contracted by NMU indicating species differences in gut regulation by this peptide. However, ion transport is modulated by NMU-8 in isolated porcine jejunal mucosa (Brown and Quito 1988). NMU-like immunoreactivity in the intestine has been localized to both the submucosal and myenteric ganglion cells (Ballesta et al. 1988) consistent with the observed effects on contractility, blood flow and absorptive/secretory functions (Ballesta et al. 1988).

Although higher concentrations of NMU are found in the periphery than in the central nervous system (CNS), immunocytochemical analysis demonstrated the presence of NMU in nerve fibers in many CNS regions with concentrations in discrete functional systems (Honzawa et al. 1987, Ballesta et al. 1988 and reviewed in Domin et al. 1987). For example, NMU-like immunoreactivity was identified in all of the cranial nuclei associated with somato-motor function (Ballesta et al. 1988). Several structures associated with sensory processing are also rich in NMU containing fibers including spinal cord (dorsal horn > ventral horn), trigeminal sensory nuclei, vestibular nuclei and other nuclei associated with descending spinal pathways (Honzawa et al. 1987). This localization suggests a role for NMU in perception and processing of sensory stimuli including pain.

Three cerebellar nuclei (nucleus medialis, interpositus and lateralis) also demonstrated NMU-like immunoreactivity, consistent with the potential importance of NMU in sensory processing. Neuronal cell bodies containing NMU-like immunoreactivity have been identified in the arcuate nucleus of the hypothalamus, an area identified as important for the regulation of food intake and neuroendocrine control. Relatively high levels of NMU-like immunoreactivity were also detected in the nucleus accumbens (Domin et al. 1987), an area where dopaminergic transmission is involved in reward and reinforcement of learned behaviors. The presence of NMU in another area important in dopaminergic transmission, the substantia nigra, (Domin et al. 1987) suggests a role for NMU in the modulation of dopaminergic actions in movement control as well. NMU-like immunoreactivity is also found in the hippocampus, amygdala and other portions of the limbic system suggesting a role for NMU ligands in affective disorders, psychosis and cognition.

G-protein coupled receptors (GPCR's) activated by this peptide and related analogues were postulated to exist based on binding of [¹²⁵I]rat NMU in rat uterus membranes (Nandha K.A. et al. 1993). The binding is saturable and of high affinity (Kd = 0.35 nM, maximal binding capacity (Bmax) = 580 fmol/mg protein). This affinity corresponds to the EC50 of contractile activity in this tissue, 0.2 nM, consistent with the involvement of this binding site in NMU-induced uterine contraction. The GTP analogue, GTPγS, inhibited binding of [¹²⁵I]rat NMU-23 suggesting that the binding site is a GPCR. In addition, chemical cross-linking identified the binding protein as having an apparent Mr of 48,500 which is consistent with the expected size of a GPCR protein. Nandha et al. (1994) also identified [¹²⁵I]rat NMU-23 binding sites in rat uterus tissue slices and in the indusium

griseum by autoradiography.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population	
Age (years)	50.0 ± 10.0
Gender	Male 50, Female 50
Education	High school 50, University 50
Occupation	Physician 50, Nurse 50
Marital status	Married 50, Single 50
Smoking status	Smoker 50, Nonsmoker 50
Alcohol consumption	Alcohol 50, No alcohol 50
Family history of hypertension	Yes 50, No 50
Duration of hypertension	10 years 50, 20 years 50, 30 years 50
Current antihypertensive treatment	ACE inhibitors 50, Beta-blockers 50, Calcium channel blockers 50, Diuretics 50
Comorbidities	Diabetes 50, Dyslipidemia 50, Coronary artery disease 50, Chronic kidney disease 50
Medication adherence	High 50, Low 50
Health status	Good 50, Fair 50, Poor 50
Quality of life	High 50, Low 50
Stress level	Low 50, Moderate 50, High 50
Social support	Strong 50, Weak 50
Healthcare access	Good 50, Poor 50
Health insurance	Yes 50, No 50
Health literacy	High 50, Low 50
Health beliefs	Positive 50, Negative 50
Health behaviors	Healthy 50, Unhealthy 50
Health outcomes	Good 50, Poor 50
Healthcare costs	Low 50, High 50
Healthcare utilization	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare satisfaction	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare equity	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare quality	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare safety	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare effectiveness	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare efficiency	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare sustainability	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare innovation	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare leadership	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare governance	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare accountability	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare transparency	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare integrity	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare ethics	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare law	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare policy	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare regulation	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare standards	High 50, Low 50
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Healthcare monitoring	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare evaluation	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare research	High 50, Low 50
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Healthcare improvement	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare innovation	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare leadership	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare governance	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare accountability	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare transparency	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare integrity	High 50, Low 50
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Healthcare evaluation	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare research	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare development	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare improvement	High 50, Low 50
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Healthcare leadership	High 50, Low 50
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Healthcare law	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare policy	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare regulation	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare standards	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare accreditation	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare certification	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare licensure	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare registration	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare monitoring	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare evaluation	High 50, Low 50
Healthcare research	High

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

5

This invention also provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

This invention further provides a purified mammalian SNORF62 receptor protein.

This invention still further provides a purified mammalian SNORF72 receptor protein.

Furthermore, this invention provides a nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within one of the two strands of the nucleic acid encoding the human SNORF62 receptor contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042).

This invention further provides a nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within one of the two strands of the nucleic acid encoding the human SNORF72 receptor contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).

This invention further provides a nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72

receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within one of the two strands of the nucleic acid encoding the rat SNORF72 receptor contained in plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927).

This invention provides a nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within (a) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 1A-1B (SEQ ID NO: 1) or (b) the reverse complement thereof.

This invention also provides a nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within (a) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 3A-3B (SEQ ID NO: 3) or (b) the reverse complement thereof.

This invention also provides a nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within (a) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 15A-15B (SEQ ID NO: 25) or (b) the reverse complement thereof.

This invention further provides a transgenic, nonhuman mammal comprising a homologous recombination knockout of the native mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

This invention still further provides a transgenic, nonhuman

mammal comprising a homologous recombination knockout of the native mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

5 This invention additionally provides a process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises contacting cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

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20 Furthermore, this invention provides a process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises contacting a membrane preparation from cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

25 This invention further provides a process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises contacting cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such cells do not
30 normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

35 This invention provides a process for identifying a chemical

compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises contacting a membrane preparation from cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

Moreover, this invention provides a process involving competitive binding for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian NMU receptor which comprises separately contacting cells expressing on their cell surface the mammalian NMU receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian NMU receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to bind to the receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for binding of such compounds to the receptor, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor, a decrease in the binding of the second chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor in the presence of the chemical compound being tested indicating that such chemical compound binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.

This invention also provides a process involving competitive binding for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian NMU receptor which comprises separately contacting a membrane preparation from cells expressing on their cell surface the mammalian NMU receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian NMU receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to bind to the receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for binding of such compounds to the receptor, and

detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the
mammalian NMU receptor, a decrease in the binding of the
second chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor in
the presence of the chemical compound being tested
5 indicating that such chemical compound binds to the
mammalian NMU receptor.

10 This invention further provides a method of screening a
plurality of chemical compounds not known to bind to a
mammalian NMU receptor to identify a compound which
specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor, which
comprises (a) contacting cells transfected with, and
expressing, DNA encoding the mammalian NMU receptor with a
compound known to bind specifically to the mammalian NMU
receptor; (b) contacting the cells of step (a) with the
plurality of compounds not known to bind specifically to the
mammalian NMU receptor, under conditions permitting binding
of compounds known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor;
20 (c) determining whether the binding of the compound known to
bind to the mammalian NMU receptor is reduced in the
presence of the plurality of compounds, relative to the
binding of the compound in the absence of the plurality of
compounds; and if so (d) separately determining the binding
to the mammalian NMU receptor of each compound included in
25 the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any
compound included therein which specifically binds to the
mammalian NMU receptor.

30 This invention still further provides a method of screening
a plurality of chemical compounds not known to bind to a
mammalian NMU receptor to identify a compound which
specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor, which
comprises (a) contacting a membrane preparation from cells
transfected with, and expressing, DNA encoding the mammalian
35 NMU receptor with the plurality of compounds not known to

bind specifically to the mammalian NMU receptor under conditions permitting binding of compounds known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor; (b) determining whether the binding of a compound known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor is reduced in the presence of the plurality of compounds, relative to the binding of the compound in the absence of the plurality of compounds; and if so (c) separately determining the binding to the mammalian NMU receptor of each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included therein which specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.

Furthermore, this invention provides a method for diagnosing a predisposition to a disorder associated with the activity of a specific mammalian allele which comprises: (a) obtaining DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder; (b) performing a restriction digest of the DNA with a panel of restriction enzymes; (c) electrophoretically separating the resulting DNA fragments on a sizing gel; (d) contacting the resulting gel with a nucleic acid probe capable of specifically hybridizing with a unique sequence included within the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor and labeled with a detectable marker; (e) detecting labeled bands which have hybridized to the DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor of claim 1 to create a unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder; (f) repeating steps (a)-(e) with DNA obtained for diagnosis from subjects not yet suffering from the disorder; and (g) comparing the unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder from step (e) with the band pattern from step (f) for subjects not yet suffering from the disorder so as to determine whether the patterns are the same or different and thereby diagnose predisposition to the disorder if the

patterns are the same.

5 This invention provides a method for diagnosing a predisposition to a disorder associated with the activity of a specific mammalian allele which comprises: (a) obtaining DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder; (b) performing a restriction digest of the DNA with a panel of restriction enzymes; (c) electrophoretically separating the resulting DNA fragments on a sizing gel; (d) contacting the resulting gel with a nucleic acid probe capable of specifically hybridizing with a unique sequence included within the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor and labeled with a detectable marker; (e) detecting labeled bands which have hybridized to the DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor of claim 2 to create a unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder; (f) repeating steps (a)-(e) with DNA obtained for diagnosis from subjects not yet suffering from the disorder; and (g) comparing the unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder from step (e) with the band pattern from step (f) for subjects not yet suffering from the disorder so as to determine whether the patterns are the same or different and thereby diagnose predisposition to the disorder if the patterns are the same.

20 This invention also provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 receptor with the compound under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, and detecting any increase in mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist.

This invention further provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 receptor with the compound in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, and detecting any decrease in mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist.

This invention still further provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the compound under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and detecting any increase in mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist.

This invention additionally provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the compound in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and detecting any decrease in mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist.

Moreover, this invention provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and activates a mammalian SNORF62 receptor, which comprises

contacting cells producing a second messenger response and
expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF62
receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the
mammalian SNORF62 receptor, with the chemical compound under
conditions suitable for activation of the mammalian SNORF62
receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the
presence and in the absence of the chemical compound, a
change in the second messenger response in the presence of
the chemical compound indicating that the compound activates
the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

This invention also provides a process for determining
whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and
activates a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises
contacting cells producing a second messenger response and
expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF72
receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the
mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with the chemical compound under
conditions suitable for activation of the mammalian SNORF72
receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the
presence and in the absence of the chemical compound, a
change in the second messenger response in the presence of
the chemical compound indicating that the compound activates
the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

This invention further provides a process for determining
whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and
inhibits activation of a mammalian NMU receptor, which
comprises separately contacting cells producing a second
messenger response and expressing on their cell surface the
mammalian NMU receptor, wherein such cells do not normally
express the mammalian NMU receptor, with both the chemical
compound and a second chemical compound known to activate
the mammalian NMU receptor, and with only the second
chemical compound, under conditions suitable for activation

of the mammalian NMU receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence of only the second chemical compound and in the presence of both the second chemical compound and the chemical compound, a smaller change in the second messenger response in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound indicating that the chemical compound inhibits activation of the mammalian NMU receptor.

This invention provides a method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to activate a mammalian SNORF62 receptor to identify a compound which activates the mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises: (a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF62 receptor with the plurality of compounds not known to activate the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor; (b) determining whether the activity of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is increased in the presence of one or more of the compounds; and if so (c) separately determining whether the activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is increased by any compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify each compound which activates the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

This invention also provides a method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to activate a mammalian SNORF72 receptor to identify a compound which activates the mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises: (a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the plurality of compounds not known to activate the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor; (b) determining whether the activity of the

mammalian SNORF72 receptor is increased in the presence of one or more of the compounds; and if so (c) separately determining whether the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is increased by any compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify each compound which activates the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

This invention further provides a method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to inhibit the activation of a mammalian NMU receptor to identify a compound which inhibits the activation of the mammalian NMU receptor, which comprises: (a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian NMU receptor with the plurality of compounds in the presence of a known mammalian NMU receptor agonist, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian NMU receptor; (b) determining whether the extent or amount of activation of the mammalian NMU receptor is reduced in the presence of one or more of the compounds, relative to the extent or amount of activation of the mammalian NMU receptor in the absence of such one or more compounds; and if so (c) separately determining whether each such compound inhibits activation of the mammalian NMU receptor for each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included in such plurality of compounds which inhibits the activation of the mammalian NMU receptor.

This invention still further provides a method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to inhibit the activation of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor to identify a compound which inhibits the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises: (a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the plurality of compounds in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist, under conditions

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figures 1A-1B

Nucleotide sequence including sequence encoding a human
5 SNORF62 receptor (SEQ ID NO: 1). Putative open reading
frames including the longest and shortest open reading
frames are indicated by underlining two start (ATG) codons
(at positions 38-40 and 107-109) and the stop codon (at
positions 1316-1318). In addition, partial 5' and 3'
untranslated sequences are shown.

Figures 2A-2B

Deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 2) of the human
SNORF62 receptor encoded by the longest open reading frame
indicated in the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 1A-1B
(SEQ ID NO: 1). The seven putative transmembrane (TM)
regions are underlined.

Figures 3A-3B

20 Nucleotide sequence including sequence encoding a human
SNORF72 receptor (SEQ ID NO: 3). Putative open reading
frames including the longest and shortest open reading
frames are indicated by underlining two start (ATG) codons
(at positions 27-29 and 36-38) and the stop codon (at
25 positions 1272-1274). In addition, partial 5' and 3'
untranslated sequences are shown.

Figures 4A-4B

30 Deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 4) of the human
SNORF72 receptor encoded by the longest open reading frame
indicated in the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 3A-3B
(SEQ ID NO: 3). The seven putative transmembrane (TM)
regions are underlined.

Figure 5

Pairwise GAP comparison (Wisconsin Package, Genetics Computer Group, Madison, WI) of the amino acid sequences of SNORF62 (upper sequence) and SNORF72 (lower sequence). (|) Indicates identical residues, and (:) or (.) indicate varying degrees of conservation between residues.

Figure 6

Concentration-dependent stimulation of intracellular Ca^{2+} release by human NMU-25 in DNA vector (Mock)- and SNORF62-transfected COS-7 cells. The data presented are representative of 7 experiments performed in duplicate.

Figure 7

Concentration-dependent stimulation of intracellular Ca^{2+} release by human NMU-25 in SNORF72-transfected COS-7 cells. The data presented are representative of 2 experiments performed in duplicate.

Figure 8

Stimulation of intracellular Ca^{2+} release by NMU and related peptides (300 nM) in SNORF72-transfected COS-7 cells. The data presented are representative of 2 experiments performed in duplicate.

Figures 9A and 9B

Saturation binding of [^{125}I]rat NMU-23 and [^{125}I]NMU-8 to SNORF62. COS-7 cells were transiently transfected with SNORF62 and membranes were prepared as described in Materials and Methods. Membranes (5 - 20 μg protein) were incubated at 4° C with increasing concentrations of [^{125}I]rat NMU-23 (Figure 9A) or [^{125}I]NMU-8 (Figure 9B) (0.01 - 3 nM) for 60 minutes. Non-specific binding was determined in the presence of 100 nM rat NMU-23. Results are representative of

2 experiments performed in duplicate.

Figure 10

Displacement of [125 I]-rat NMU-23 binding in SNORF62-transfected COS-7 membranes. Membranes were incubated with [125 I]-rat NMU-23 (0.05 - 0.1 nM) in the presence of the indicated peptides as described in Materials and Methods. Results presented are representative of 2 experiments.

Figures 11A and 11B

Saturation binding of [125 I]rat NMU-23 and [125 I]NMU-8 to SNORF72. COS-7 cells were transiently transfected with SNORF72 and membranes were prepared as described in Materials and Methods. Membranes (5 - 20 μ g protein) were incubated at 4° C with increasing concentrations of [125 I]rat NMU-23 (Figure 11A) or [125 I]NMU-8 (Figure 11B) (0.01 - 2.8 nM) for 60 minutes. Non-specific binding was determined in the presence of 100 nM rat NMU-23. Results presented are representative of 2 experiments performed in duplicate.

Figure 12

Displacement of [125 I]rat NMU-23 binding in SNORF72-transfected COS-7 membranes. Membranes were incubated with [125 I]rat NMU-23 (0.05 - 0.1 nM) in the presence of the indicated peptides as described in Materials and Methods. Results are representative of 2 experiments performed in duplicate.

Figure 13

Representative traces of human NMU-25-induced calcium-activated chloride currents in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes. The traces labeled SNORF62 were recorded from oocytes injected with mRNA encoding SNORF62.

Figures 14A-14B

Nucleotide sequence including sequence encoding a rat SNORF72 receptor (SEQ ID NO: 24). Putative open reading frames including the longest and shortest open reading frames are indicated by underlining two start (ATG) codons (at positions 23-25 and 65-67) and the stop codon (at positions 1208-1210). In addition, partial 5' and 3' untranslated sequences are shown.

Figures 15A-15B

Deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 25) of the rat SNORF72 receptor encoded by the longest open reading frame indicated in the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 14A-14B (SEQ ID NO: 24). The seven putative transmembrane (TM) regions are underlined.

Figures 16A-16B

Amino acid sequence comparison of rat SNORF72 (SEQ ID NO: 25) with human SNORF72 (SEQ ID NO: 4) and human SNORF62 (SEQ ID NO: 2). The multiple sequence alignment was generated using Pileup (Wisconsin Package Version 10.0, Genetics Computer Group (GCG), Madison, Wisc.).

Figures 17A and 17B

Nucleotide sequence including sequence encoding a rat SNORF62a receptor (SEQ ID NO: 26). Putative open reading frames are indicated by underlining the start (ATG) codon (at positions 26-28) and the stop codon (at positions 1265-1267). In addition, partial 5' and 3' untranslated sequences are shown.

Figures 18A and 18B

Deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 27) of the rat SNORF62a receptor encoded by the longest open reading frame

indicated in the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 17A-17B (SEQ ID NO: 26). The seven putative transmembrane (TM) regions are underlined.

Figures 19A and 19B

Nucleotide sequence including sequence encoding a rat SNORF62b receptor (SEQ ID NO: 28). Putative open reading frames including the longest and shortest open reading frames are indicated by underlining two start (ATG) codons (at positions 27-29 and 69-71) and the stop codon (at position 1344-1346). In addition, partial 5' and 3' untranslated sequences are shown.

Figures 20A and 20B

Deduced amino acid sequence of the rat SNORF62b receptor (SEQ ID NO: 29) encoded by the longest open reading frame indicated in the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 19A-19B. The seven putative transmembrane (TM) regions are underlined.

Figures 21A-21C

Amino acid sequence comparison of rat SNORF62a (SEQ ID NO: 27), rat SNORF62b (SEQ ID NO: 29) and human SNORF62 (SEQ ID NO: 2). The multiple sequence alignment was generated using Pileup (Wisconsin Package Version 10.0, Genetics Computer Group (GCG), Madison, Wisc.).

Figure 22

Stimulation of intracellular Ca^{2+} release by NMU-8 and rat NMU-23 at 100 nM in rat SNORF72-transfected COS-7 cells. The data represent the average \pm SEM for an experiment performed in quadruplicate.

Figure 23

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention provides a recombinant nucleic acid
comprising a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF62
receptor, wherein the mammalian receptor-encoding nucleic
acid hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a
nucleic acid encoding a human SNORF62 receptor and having a
sequence identical to the sequence of the human SNORF62
receptor-encoding nucleic acid contained in plasmid
pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-
1042).

10 This invention further provides a recombinant nucleic acid
comprising a nucleic acid encoding a human SNORF62 receptor,
wherein the human SNORF62 receptor comprises an amino acid
sequence identical to the sequence of the human SNORF62
receptor encoded by the longest open reading frame indicated
in Figures 1A-1B (SEQ ID NO: 1).

15 The plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f was deposited on
December 8, 1999, with the American Type Culture Collection
(ATCC), 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, Virginia 20110-
2209, U.S.A. under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty for
the International Recognition of the Deposit of
20 Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure and was
accorded Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042.

25 This invention further provides a recombinant nucleic acid
comprising a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72
receptor, wherein the mammalian receptor-encoding nucleic
acid hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a
nucleic acid encoding a human SNORF72 receptor and having a
sequence identical to the sequence of the human SNORF72
receptor-encoding nucleic acid contained in plasmid
pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-
30 35

1446).

5 This invention further provides a recombinant nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid encoding a human SNORF72 receptor, wherein the human SNORF72 receptor comprises an amino acid sequence identical to the sequence of the human SNORF72 receptor encoded by the longest open reading frame indicated in Figures 3A-3B (SEQ ID NO: 3).

10 The plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f was deposited on March 2, 2000, with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209, U.S.A. under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty for the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure and was accorded Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446.

15 The plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f was deposited on May 26, 2000, with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209, U.S.A. under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty for the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure and was accorded Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927.

20 This invention also contemplates recombinant nucleic acids which comprise nucleic acids encoding naturally occurring allelic variants of the mammalian SNORF62 and mammalian SNORF72 receptors described above.

25 Hybridization methods are well known to those of skill in the art. For purposes of this invention, hybridization under high stringency conditions means hybridization performed at 40°C in a hybridization buffer containing 50% formamide, 5X SSC, 7mM Tris, 1X Denhardt's, 25µg/ml salmon sperm DNA; wash

at 50°C in 0.1X SSC, 0.1%SDS.

Throughout this application, the following standard abbreviations are used to indicate specific nucleotide bases:

A = adenine
G = guanine
C = cytosine
T = thymine
M = adenine or cytosine
R = adenine or guanine
W = adenine or thymine
S = cytosine or guanine
Y = cytosine or thymine
K = guanine or thymine
V = adenine, cytosine, or guanine (not thymine)
H = adenine, cytosine, or thymine (not cytosine)
B = cytosine, guanine, or thymine (not adenine)
N = adenine, cytosine, guanine, or thymine (or other modified base such as inosine)
I = inosine

Furthermore, the term "agonist" is used throughout this application to indicate any peptide or non-peptidyl compound which increases the activity of any of the polypeptides of the subject invention. The term "antagonist" is used throughout this application to indicate any peptide or non-peptidyl compound which decreases the activity of any of the polypeptides of the subject invention.

Furthermore, as used herein, the phrase "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" means any of the standard pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Examples include, but are not limited to, phosphate buffered saline, physiological saline, water, and emulsions, such as oil/water emulsions.

It is possible that the mammalian SNORF62 receptor gene and the mammalian SNORF72 receptor gene contain introns and furthermore, the possibility exists that additional introns could exist in coding or non-coding regions. In addition, spliced form(s) of mRNA may encode additional amino acids either upstream of the currently defined starting methionine or within the coding region. Further, the existence and use of alternative exons is possible, whereby the mRNA may encode different amino acids within the region comprising the exon. In addition, single amino acid substitutions may arise via the mechanism of RNA editing such that the amino acid sequence of the expressed protein is different than that encoded by the original gene. (Burns, et al., 1996; Chu, et al., 1996). Such variants may exhibit pharmacologic properties differing from the polypeptide encoded by the original gene.

This invention provides splice variants of the mammalian SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptors disclosed herein. This invention further provides for alternate translation initiation sites and alternately spliced or edited variants of nucleic acids encoding the mammalian SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptors of this invention.

The nucleic acids of the subject invention also include nucleic acid analogs of the human SNORF62 receptor gene, wherein the human SNORF62 receptor gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 1A-1B (SEQ ID NO: 1) or contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). Nucleic acid analogs of the human SNORF62 receptor genes differ from the human SNORF62 receptor genes described herein in terms of the identity or location of one or more nucleic acid bases (deletion analogs containing less than all of the nucleic acid bases shown in Figures 1A-1B or contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f,

substitution analogs wherein one or more nucleic acid bases shown in Figures 1A-1B or contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042), are replaced by other nucleic acid bases, and addition analogs, wherein one or more nucleic acid bases are added to a terminal or medial portion of the nucleic acid sequence) and which encode proteins which share some or all of the properties of the proteins encoded by the nucleic acid sequences shown in Figures 1A-1B or contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). In one embodiment of the present invention, the nucleic acid analog encodes a protein which has an amino acid sequence identical to that shown in Figures 2A-2B or encoded by the nucleic acid sequence contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). In another embodiment, the nucleic acid analog encodes a protein having an amino acid sequence which differs from the amino acid sequences shown in Figures 2A-2B or encoded by the nucleic acid contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). In a further embodiment, the protein encoded by the nucleic acid analog has a function which is the same as the function of the receptor proteins having the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 2A-2B. In another embodiment, the function of the protein encoded by the nucleic acid analog differs from the function of the receptor protein having the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 2A-2B. In another embodiment, the variation in the nucleic acid sequence occurs within the transmembrane (TM) region of the protein. In a further embodiment, the variation in the nucleic acid sequence occurs outside of the TM region.

The nucleic acids of the subject invention also include nucleic acid analogs of the rat SNORF62a and rat SNORF62b receptor genes, wherein the rat SNORF62a receptor gene

comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 17A-17B (SEQ ID NO: 26) and the rat SNORF62b receptor gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 19A-19B (SEQ ID NO: 28). Nucleic acid analogs of the rat SNORF62a and rat SNORF62b receptor genes differ from the rat SNORF62a and rat SNORF62b receptor genes described herein in terms of the identity or location of one or more nucleic acid bases (deletion analogs containing less than all of the nucleic acid bases shown in Figures 17A-17B or Figures 19A-19B, substitution analogs wherein one or more nucleic acid bases shown in Figures 17A-17B or Figures 19A-19B, are replaced by other nucleic acid bases, and addition analogs, wherein one or more nucleic acid bases are added to a terminal or medial portion of the nucleic acid sequence) and which encode proteins which share some or all of the properties of the proteins encoded by the nucleic acid sequences shown in Figures 17A-17B or Figure 19A-19B. In one embodiment of the present invention, the nucleic acid analog encodes a protein which has an amino acid sequence identical to that shown in Figures 18A-18B or Figures 20A-20B. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid analog encodes a protein having an amino acid sequence which differs from the amino acid sequences shown in Figures 18A-18B or Figures 20A-20B. In a further embodiment, the protein encoded by the nucleic acid analog has a function which is the same as the function of the receptor proteins having the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 18A-18B or Figures 20A-20B. In another embodiment, the function of the protein encoded by the nucleic acid analog differs from the function of the receptor protein having the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 18A-18B or Figures 20A-20B. In another embodiment, the variation in the nucleic acid sequence occurs within the transmembrane (TM) region of the protein. In a further embodiment, the variation in the nucleic acid sequence occurs outside of the TM region.

The nucleic acids of the subject invention also include nucleic acid analogs of the human SNORF72 receptor gene, wherein the human SNORF72 receptor gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 3A-3B (SEQ ID NO: 3) or contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446). Nucleic acid analogs of the human SNORF72 receptor gene differ from the human SNORF72 receptor gene described herein in terms of the identity or location of one or more nucleic acid bases (deletion analogs containing less than all of the nucleic acid bases shown in Figures 3A-3B or contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446), substitution analogs wherein one or more nucleic acid bases shown in Figures 3A-3B or contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446), are replaced by other nucleic acid bases, and addition analogs, wherein one or more nucleic acid bases are added to a terminal or medial portion of the nucleic acid sequence) and which encode proteins which share some or all of the properties of the proteins encoded by the nucleic acid sequences shown in Figures 3A-3B or contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446). In one embodiment of the present invention, the nucleic acid analog encodes a protein which has an amino acid sequence identical to that shown in Figures 4A-4B or encoded by the nucleic acid sequence contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446). In another embodiment, the nucleic acid analog encodes a protein having an amino acid sequence which differs from the amino acid sequences shown in Figures 4A-4B or encoded by the nucleic acid contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446). In a further embodiment, the protein encoded by the nucleic acid analog has a function which is the same as the function of the receptor

proteins having the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 4A-4B. In another embodiment, the function of the protein encoded by the nucleic acid analog differs from the function of the receptor protein having the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 4A-4B. In another embodiment, the variation in the nucleic acid sequence occurs within the transmembrane (TM) region of the protein. In a further embodiment, the variation in the nucleic acid sequence occurs outside of the TM region.

The nucleic acids of the subject invention also include nucleic acid analogs of the rat SNORF72 receptor gene, wherein the rat SNORF72 receptor gene comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 14A-14B (SEQ ID NO: 24) or contained in plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927). Nucleic acid analogs of the rat SNORF72 receptor gene differ from the rat SNORF72 receptor gene described herein in terms of the identity or location of one or more nucleic acid bases (deletion analogs containing less than all of the nucleic acid bases shown in Figures 14A-14B or contained in plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927), substitution analogs wherein one or more nucleic acid bases shown in Figures 14A-14B or contained in plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927), are replaced by other nucleic acid bases, and addition analogs, wherein one or more nucleic acid bases are added to a terminal or medial portion of the nucleic acid sequence) and which encode proteins which share some or all of the properties of the proteins encoded by the nucleic acid sequences shown in Figures 14A-14B or contained in plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927). In one embodiment of the present invention, the nucleic acid analog encodes a protein which has an amino acid sequence identical to that shown in Figures 15A-15B or encoded by the nucleic

acid sequence contained in plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927). In another embodiment, the nucleic acid analog encodes a protein having an amino acid sequence which differs from the amino acid sequences shown in Figures 15A-15B or encoded by the nucleic acid contained in plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927). In a further embodiment, the protein encoded by the nucleic acid analog has a function which is the same as the function of the receptor proteins having the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 15A-15B. In another embodiment, the function of the protein encoded by the nucleic acid analog differs from the function of the receptor protein having the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 15A-15B. In another embodiment, the variation in the nucleic acid sequence occurs within the transmembrane (TM) region of the protein. In a further embodiment, the variation in the nucleic acid sequence occurs outside of the TM region.

This invention provides the above-described isolated nucleic acid, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA. In an embodiment, the DNA is cDNA. In another embodiment, the DNA is genomic DNA. In still another embodiment, the nucleic acid is RNA. Methods for production and manipulation of nucleic acid molecules are well known in the art.

This invention further provides nucleic acid which is degenerate with respect to the DNA encoding any of the polypeptides described herein. In an embodiment, the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate with respect to the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 1A-1B (SEQ ID NO: 1) or the nucleotide sequence contained in the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042), that is, a nucleotide sequence which is translated into the same amino acid

sequence. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate with respect to the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 3A-3B (SEQ ID NO: 3) or the nucleotide sequence contained in the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446), that is, a nucleotide sequence which is translated into the same amino acid sequence. In a further embodiment, the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate with respect to the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 14A-14B (SEQ ID NO: 24) or the nucleotide sequence contained in the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927), that is, a nucleotide sequence which is translated into the same amino acid sequence. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate with respect to the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 17A-17B (SEQ ID NO: 26), that is, a nucleotide sequence which is translated into the same amino acid sequence. In yet another embodiment, the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate with respect to the nucleotide sequence shown in Figures 19A-19B (SEQ ID NO: 28), that is, a nucleotide sequence which is translated into the same amino acid sequence.

This invention also encompasses DNAs and cDNAs which encode amino acid sequences which differ from those of the polypeptides of this invention, but which should not produce phenotypic changes.

Alternately, this invention also encompasses DNAs, cDNAs, and RNAs which hybridize to the DNA, cDNA, and RNA of the subject invention. Hybridization methods are well known to those of skill in the art.

The nucleic acids of the subject invention also include

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large scale synthesis of the polypeptides by a variety of recombinant techniques. The nucleic acid molecule is useful for generating new cloning and expression vectors, transformed and transfected prokaryotic and eukaryotic host cells, and new and useful methods for cultured growth of such host cells capable of expression of the polypeptide and related products.

This invention also provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding species homologs of the SNORF62 receptor encoded by the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 1A-1B (SEQ ID NO: 1) or encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). In one embodiment, the nucleic acid encodes a mammalian SNORF62 receptor homolog which has substantially the same amino acid sequence as does the SNORF62 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). In another embodiment, the nucleic acid encodes a mammalian SNORF62 receptor homolog which has above 75% amino acid identity to the SNORF62 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042); preferably above 85% amino acid identity to the SNORF62 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042); most preferably above 95% amino acid identity to the SNORF62 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). In another embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor homolog has above 70% nucleic acid identity to the SNORF62 receptor gene contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042); preferably above 80% nucleic acid identity to the SNORF62 receptor gene contained in the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042); more preferably above 90% nucleic acid identity to the SNORF62 receptor gene contained in the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f

(Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). Examples of methods for isolating and purifying species homologs are described elsewhere (e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,602,024, WO94/14957, WO97/26853, WO98/15570).

This invention also provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding species homologs of the SNORF62 receptor encoded by the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 17A-17B (SEQ ID NO: 26) or Figures 19A-19B (SEQ ID NO: 28).

This invention also provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding species homologs of the SNORF72 receptors encoded by the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 3A-3B (SEQ ID NO: 3) or encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446). In one embodiment, the nucleic acid encodes a mammalian SNORF72 receptor homolog which has substantially the same amino acid sequence as does the SNORF72 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446). In another embodiment, the nucleic acid encodes a mammalian SNORF72 receptor homolog which has above 75% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446); preferably above 85% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446); most preferably above 95% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446). In another embodiment, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor homolog has above 70% nucleic acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor gene contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446); preferably above 80% nucleic acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor gene contained in the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446); more

preferably above 90% nucleic acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor gene contained in the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).

5 This invention also provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding species homologs of the SNORF72 receptors encoded by the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 14A-14B (SEQ ID NO:) or encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927). In one
10 embodiment, the nucleic acid encodes a mammalian SNORF72 receptor homolog which has substantially the same amino acid sequence as does the SNORF72 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927). In another embodiment, the nucleic acid encodes a
15 mammalian SNORF72 receptor homolog which has above 75% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927); preferably above 85% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f
20 (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927); most preferably above 95% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927). In another embodiment, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor homolog has above 70% nucleic
25 acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor gene contained in plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927); preferably above 80% nucleic acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor gene contained in the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927); more
30 preferably above 90% nucleic acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor gene contained in the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927).

35 This invention provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding a modified mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor, which

differs from a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor by having an amino acid(s) deletion, replacement, or addition in the third intracellular domain.

5 This invention provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding a mammalian NMU receptor. This invention provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor. This invention further provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor. In one embodiment, the
10 nucleic acid is DNA. In another embodiment, the DNA is cDNA. In another embodiment, the DNA is genomic DNA. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid is RNA.

15 In one embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human NMU receptor. In a further embodiment, the human NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor, or a rat SNORF62b receptor. In another embodiment, the human SNORF62 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent
20 Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). In another embodiment, the human SNORF62 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 2A-2B (SEQ ID NO: 2). In another embodiment, the rat SNORF62a receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to the amino
25 acid sequence shown in Figures 18A-18B (SEQ ID NO: 27). In another embodiment, the rat SNORF62b receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 20A-20B (SEQ ID NO: 29).

30 In a further embodiment, the human NMU receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor. In another embodiment, the human SNORF72 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446). In
35 another embodiment, the human SNORF72 receptor has an amino

acid sequence identical to the amino acid sequence shown in
Figures 4A-4B (SEQ ID NO: 4). In another embodiment, the
rat SNORF72 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to
that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent
Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927). In another embodiment,
the rat SNORF72 receptor has an amino acid sequence
identical to the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 15A-
15B (SEQ ID NO: 25).

This invention provides a purified mammalian SNORF62 or
SNORF72 receptor protein. In one embodiment, the SNORF62
receptor protein is a human SNORF62 receptor protein, a rat
SNORF62a receptor protein, or a rat SNORF62b receptor
protein. In another embodiment, the SNORF72 receptor
protein is a human SNORF72 receptor protein or a rat SNORF72
receptor protein.

This invention provides a vector comprising the nucleic acid
of this invention. This invention further provides a vector
adapted for expression in a cell which comprises the
regulatory elements necessary for expression of the nucleic
acid in the cell operatively linked to the nucleic acid
encoding the receptor so as to permit expression thereof,
wherein the cell is a bacterial, amphibian, yeast, insect or
mammalian cell. In one embodiment, the vector is a
baculovirus. In another embodiment, the vector is a
plasmid.

This invention provides a plasmid designated pEXJ.T3T7-
hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042). This
invention also provides a plasmid designated pEXJ.T3T7-
hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446). This
invention also provides a plasmid designated pEXJ.BS-
rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927).

This invention further provides for any vector or plasmid which comprises modified untranslated sequences, which are beneficial for expression in desired host cells or for use in binding or functional assays. For example, a vector or plasmid with untranslated sequences of varying lengths may express differing amounts of the polypeptide depending upon the host cell used. In an embodiment, the vector or plasmid comprises the coding sequence of the polypeptide and the regulatory elements necessary for expression in the host cell.

This invention provides for a cell comprising the vector of this invention. In one embodiment, the cell is a non-mammalian cell. In one embodiment, the non-mammalian cell is a *Xenopus* oocyte cell or a *Xenopus* melanophore cell. In another embodiment, the cell is a mammalian cell. In another embodiment, the cell is a COS-7 cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a NIH-3T3 cell, a LM(tk-) cell, a mouse Y1 cell, or a CHO cell. In another embodiment, the cell is an insect cell. In another embodiment, the insect cell is an Sf9 cell, an Sf21 cell or a *Trichoplusia ni* 5B-4 cell.

This invention provides a membrane preparation isolated from the cell in accordance with this invention.

Furthermore, this invention provides for a nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within one of the two strands of the nucleic acid encoding the mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042), plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit

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they encode in transfected cells.

The use of a constitutively active receptor encoded by SNORF62 either occurring naturally without further
5 modification or after appropriate point mutations, deletions or the like, allows screening for antagonists and *in vivo* use of such antagonists to attribute a role to receptor SNORF62 without prior knowledge of the endogenous ligand.

The use of a constitutively active receptor encoded by SNORF72 either occurring naturally without further
10 modification or after appropriate point mutations, deletions or the like, allows screening for antagonists and *in vivo* use of such antagonists to attribute a role to receptor SNORF72 without prior knowledge of the endogenous ligand.
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Use of the nucleic acids further enables elucidation of possible receptor diversity and of the existence of multiple subtypes within a family of receptors of which SNORF62 is a
20 member.

Use of the nucleic acids further enables elucidation of possible receptor diversity and of the existence of multiple subtypes within a family of receptors of which SNORF72 is a
25 member.

Finally, it is contemplated that the receptors of this invention will serve as a valuable tool for designing drugs for treating various pathophysiological conditions such as
30 chronic and acute inflammation, arthritis, autoimmune diseases, transplant rejection, graft vs. host disease, bacterial, fungal, protozoan and viral infections, septicemia, AIDS, pain, psychotic and neurological disorders, including anxiety, depression, schizophrenia,
35 dementia, mental retardation, memory loss, epilepsy,

neuromotor disorders, locomotor disorders, respiratory disorders, asthma, eating/body weight disorders including obesity, bulimia, diabetes, anorexia, nausea, hypertension, hypotension, vascular and cardiovascular disorders, ischemia, stroke, cancers, ulcers, urinary retention, sexual/reproductive disorders, circadian rhythm disorders, renal disorders, bone diseases including osteoporosis, benign prostatic hypertrophy, gastrointestinal disorders, nasal congestion, dermatological disorders such as psoriasis, allergies, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, acute heart failure, angina disorders, delirium, dyskinesias such as Huntington's disease or Gille's de la Tourette's syndrome, among others and diagnostic assays for such conditions. The receptors of this invention may also serve as a valuable tool for designing drugs for chemoprevention.

Methods of transfecting cells e.g. mammalian cells, with such nucleic acid to obtain cells in which the receptor is expressed on the surface of the cell are well known in the art. (See, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,053,337; 5,155,218; 5,360,735; 5,472,866; 5,476,782; 5,516,653; 5,545,549; 5,556,753; 5,595,880; 5,602,024; 5,639,652; 5,652,113; 5,661,024; 5,766,879; 5,786,155; and 5,786,157, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties into this application.)

Such transfected cells may also be used to test compounds and screen compound libraries to obtain compounds which bind to the SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor, as well as compounds which activate or inhibit activation of functional responses in such cells, and therefore are likely to do so in vivo. (See, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,053,337; 5,155,218; 5,360,735; 5,472,866; 5,476,782; 5,516,653; 5,545,549; 5,556,753; 5,595,880; 5,602,024; 5,639,652; 5,652,113;

5,661,024; 5,766,879; 5,786,155; and 5,786,157, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties into this application.)

5 This invention provides an antibody capable of binding to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor encoded by a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor. This invention further provides an antibody capable of binding to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor encoded by a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor. In an embodiment of the present invention, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF 62a receptor, or a rat SNORF62b receptor. In a further embodiment, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

This invention also provides an agent capable of competitively inhibiting the binding of the antibody to a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor. In one embodiment, the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antisera.

Methods of preparing and employing antisense oligonucleotides, antibodies, nucleic acid probes and transgenic animals directed to the SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptors are well known in the art. (See, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,053,337; 5,155,218; 5,360,735; 5,472,866; 5,476,782; 5,516,653; 5,545,549; 5,556,753; 5,595,880; 5,602,024; 5,639,652; 5,652,113; 5,661,024; 5,766,879; 5,786,155; and 5,786,157, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties into this application.)

This invention provides for an antisense oligonucleotide having a sequence capable of specifically hybridizing to RNA encoding a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor, so as to

prevent translation of such RNA. This invention further provides for an antisense oligonucleotide having a sequence capable of specifically hybridizing to genomic DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor, so as to prevent transcription of such genomic DNA. In one embodiment, the oligonucleotide comprises chemically modified nucleotides or nucleotide analogues.

This invention still further provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising (a) an amount of an oligonucleotide in accordance with this invention capable of passing through a cell membrane and effective to reduce expression of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor and (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier capable of passing through the cell membrane.

In one embodiment, the oligonucleotide is coupled to a substance which inactivates mRNA. In another embodiment, the substance which inactivates mRNA is a ribozyme. In another embodiment, the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises a structure which binds to a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor on a cell capable of being taken up by the cells after binding to the structure. In another embodiment, the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is capable of binding to a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor which is specific for a selected cell type.

This invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition which comprises an amount of an antibody in accordance with this invention effective to block binding of a ligand to a human SNORF62 receptor or a human SNORF72 receptor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

This invention further provides a transgenic, nonhuman mammal expressing DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF62 or

SNORF72 receptor in accordance with this invention. This invention provides a transgenic, nonhuman mammal comprising a homologous recombination knockout of a native mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor. This invention further provides a transgenic, nonhuman mammal whose genome comprises antisense DNA complementary to DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor in accordance with this invention so placed within such genome as to be transcribed into antisense mRNA which is complementary and hybridizes with mRNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor so as to thereby reduce translation of such mRNA and expression of such receptor. In one embodiment, the DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor additionally comprises an inducible promoter. In another embodiment, the DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor additionally comprises tissue specific regulatory elements. In another embodiment, the transgenic, nonhuman mammal is a mouse.

This invention provides for a process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises contacting cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

This invention provides for a process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises contacting cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with the

compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

5 This invention further provides for a process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises contacting a membrane preparation from cells containing DNA encoding and expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF62
10 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF62
15 receptor.

20 This invention further provides for a process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises contacting a membrane preparation from cells containing DNA encoding and expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF72
25 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF72
30 receptor.

In an embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor, or a rat SNORF62b
35 receptor. In another embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor has substantially the same amino acid sequence as the human SNORF62 receptor encoded by plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042).

In a further embodiment, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a
35 human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor. In

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which specifically binds to a mammalian NMU receptor which comprises separately contacting cells expressing on their cell surface the mammalian NMU receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian NMU receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to bind to the receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for binding of such compounds to the receptor, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor, a decrease in the binding of the second chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor in the presence of the chemical compound being tested indicating that such chemical compound binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.

This invention provides a process involving competitive binding for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian NMU receptor which comprises separately contacting a membrane preparation from cells expressing on their cell surface the mammalian NMU receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian NMU receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to bind to the receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for binding of such compounds to the receptor, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor, a decrease in the binding of the second chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor in the presence of the chemical compound being tested indicating that such chemical compound binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the second chemical compound is an NMU peptide. Examples of NMU peptides include, but are not limited to, human NMU-25, human NMU-8, porcine NMU-8, porcine NMU-25, rat NMU-25 and

any peptide comprising the carboxyl terminal seven amino acid residues of human NMU-8.

5 In one embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor or a rat SNORF62b receptor. In another embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor. In a further embodiment, the cell is an insect cell. In another embodiment, the cell is a mammalian cell. In another
10 embodiment, the cell is nonneuronal in origin. In another embodiment, the nonneuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a CHO cell, a NIH-3T3 cell, a mouse Y1 cell, or a LM(tk-) cell. In another embodiment, the compound is not previously known to bind to a mammalian NMU
15 receptor. This invention provides for a compound identified by the preceding process according to this invention.

20 This invention provides for a method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to bind to a mammalian NMU receptor to identify a compound which specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor, which comprises (a) contacting cells transfected with, and expressing, DNA encoding the mammalian NMU receptor with a compound known to bind specifically to the mammalian NMU
25 receptor; (b) contacting the cells of step (a) with the plurality of compounds not known to bind specifically to the mammalian NMU receptor, under conditions permitting binding of compounds known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor; (c) determining whether the binding of the compound known to
30 bind to the mammalian NMU receptor is reduced in the presence of the plurality of compounds, relative to the binding of the compound in the absence of the plurality of compounds; and if so (d) separately determining the binding to the mammalian NMU receptor of each compound included in
35 the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any

compound included therein which specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.

5 This invention provides a method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to bind to a mammalian NMU receptor to identify a compound which specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor, which comprises (a) contacting a membrane preparation from cells transfected with, and expressing, DNA encoding the mammalian NMU receptor with the
10 plurality of compounds not known to bind specifically to the mammalian NMU receptor under conditions permitting binding of compounds known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor; (b) determining whether the binding of a compound known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor is reduced in the
15 presence of the plurality of compounds, relative to the binding of the compound in the absence of the plurality of compounds; and if so (c) separately determining the binding to the mammalian NMU receptor of each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any
20 compound included therein which specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.

In one embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor or a rat SNORF62b
25 receptor. In a further embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor. In another embodiment, the cell is a mammalian cell. In another embodiment, the mammalian cell is non-neuronal in origin. In a further embodiment, the non-
30 neuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a LM(tk-) cell, a CHO cell, a mouse Y1 cell, or an NIH-3T3 cell.

This invention also provides a method of detecting
35 expression of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor by

detecting the presence of mRNA coding for the mammalian
SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor which comprises obtaining total
mRNA from the cell and contacting the mRNA so obtained with
a nucleic acid probe according to this invention under
5 hybridizing conditions, detecting the presence of mRNA
hybridized to the probe, and thereby detecting the
expression of the mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor by
the cell.

10 This invention further provides for a method of detecting
the presence of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor on
the surface of a cell which comprises contacting the cell
with an antibody according to this invention under
conditions permitting binding of the antibody to the
15 receptor, detecting the presence of the antibody bound to
the cell, and thereby detecting the presence of the
mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor on the surface of the
cell.

20 This invention still further provides a method of
determining the physiological effects of varying levels of
activity of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor which
comprises producing a transgenic, nonhuman mammal in
accordance with this invention whose levels of mammalian
25 SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor activity are varied by use of an
inducible promoter which regulates mammalian SNORF62 or
SNORF72 receptor expression.

30 This invention additionally provides a method of determining
the physiological effects of varying levels of activity of a
mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor which comprises
producing a panel of transgenic, nonhuman mammals in
accordance with this invention each expressing a different
amount of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor.

Moreover, this invention provides method for identifying an antagonist capable of alleviating an abnormality wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor comprising
5 administering a compound to a transgenic, nonhuman mammal according to this invention, and determining whether the compound alleviates any physiological and/or behavioral abnormality displayed by the transgenic, nonhuman mammal as a result of overactivity of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72
10 receptor, the alleviation of such an abnormality identifying the compound as an antagonist. In an embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor or a rat SNORF62b receptor. In another embodiment, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a
15 human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

The invention also provides an antagonist identified by the preceding method according to this invention. This invention further provides a composition, e.g. a pharmaceutical
20 composition comprising an antagonist according to this invention and a carrier, e.g. a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

This invention provides a method of treating an abnormality
25 in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to this invention so as to thereby treat the abnormality.

This invention provides a method of treating an abnormality
30 in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises administering to the subject an effective
35 amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to this

invention so as to thereby treat the abnormality.

In addition, this invention provides a method for identifying an agonist capable of alleviating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor comprising administering a compound to a transgenic, nonhuman mammal according to this invention, and determining whether the compound alleviates any physiological and/or behavioral abnormality displayed by the transgenic, nonhuman mammal, the alleviation of such an abnormality identifying the compound as an agonist. In an embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor or a rat SNORF62b receptor. In a further embodiment, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor. This invention provides an agonist identified by the preceding method according to this invention. This invention provides a composition, e.g. a pharmaceutical composition comprising an agonist identified by a method according to this invention and a carrier, e.g. a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Moreover, this invention provides a method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of this invention so as to thereby treat the abnormality.

Yet further, this invention provides a method for diagnosing a predisposition to a disorder associated with the activity of a specific mammalian allele which comprises: (a) obtaining DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder; (b)

performing a restriction digest of the DNA with a panel of restriction enzymes; (c) electrophoretically separating the resulting DNA fragments on a sizing gel; (d) contacting the resulting gel with a nucleic acid probe capable of specifically hybridizing with a unique sequence included within the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor and labeled with a detectable marker; (e) detecting labeled bands which have hybridized to the DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor to create a unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder; (f) repeating steps (a)-(e) with DNA obtained for diagnosis from subjects not yet suffering from the disorder; and (g) comparing the unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder from step (e) with the band pattern from step (f) for subjects not yet suffering from the disorder so as to determine whether the patterns are the same or different and thereby diagnose predisposition to the disorder if the patterns are the same.

In one embodiment, the disorder is a disorder associated with the activity of a specific mammalian allele is diagnosed.

This invention also provides a method of preparing a purified mammalian SNORF62 receptor according to this invention which comprises: (a) culturing cells which express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor; (b) recovering the mammalian SNORF62 receptor from the cells; and (c) purifying the mammalian SNORF62 receptor so recovered.

This invention also provides a method of preparing a purified mammalian SNORF72 receptor according to this invention which comprises: (a) culturing cells which express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor; (b) recovering the mammalian

SNORF72 receptor from the cells; and (c) purifying the mammalian SNORF72 receptor so recovered.

5 This invention further provides a method of preparing a purified mammalian SNORF62 receptor according to this invention which comprises: (a) inserting a nucleic acid encoding the mammalian SNORF62 receptor into a suitable expression vector; (b) introducing the resulting vector into a suitable host cell; (c) placing the resulting host cell in
10 suitable condition permitting the production of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor; (d) recovering the mammalian SNORF62 receptor so produced; and optionally (e) isolating and/or purifying the mammalian SNORF62 receptor so
15 recovered.

20 This invention further provides a method of preparing a purified mammalian SNORF72 receptor according to this invention which comprises: (a) inserting a nucleic acid encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor into a suitable expression vector; (b) introducing the resulting vector into a suitable host cell; (c) placing the resulting host cell in
25 suitable condition permitting the production of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor; (d) recovering the mammalian SNORF72 receptor so produced; and optionally (e) isolating and/or purifying the mammalian SNORF72 receptor so
30 recovered.

35 Furthermore, this invention provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 receptor with the compound under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, and detecting any increase in mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is

a mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist.

Furthermore, this invention provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian NMU receptor agonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian NMU receptor with the compound under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian NMU receptor, and detecting any increase in mammalian NMU receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian NMU receptor agonist.

Furthermore, this invention provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the compound under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and detecting any increase in mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist.

This invention also provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian NMU receptor antagonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian NMU receptor with the compound in the presence of a known mammalian NMU receptor agonist, under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian NMU receptor, and detecting any decrease in mammalian NMU receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian NMU receptor antagonist.

This invention also provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with

and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 receptor with the compound in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, and detecting any decrease in mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist.

This invention also provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the compound in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and detecting any decrease in mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist.

In an embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor or a rat SNORF62b receptor. In another embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor. In yet another embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor and the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.

This invention still further provides a composition, for example a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises an amount of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor agonist determined by a process according to this invention effective to increase activity of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In one embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor agonist is not

previously known.

Also, this invention provides a composition, for example a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises an amount of a mammalian NMU receptor antagonist determined by a process according to this invention effective to reduce activity of a mammalian NMU receptor and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Also, this invention provides a composition, for example a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises an amount of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist determined by a process according to this invention effective to reduce activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Also, this invention provides a composition, for example a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises an amount of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist determined by a process according to this invention effective to reduce activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In one embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor antagonist is not previously known. In an embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor antagonist is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist. In a further embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor antagonist is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist.

This invention moreover provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and activates a mammalian SNORF62 receptor, which comprises contacting cells producing a second messenger response and expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, with the chemical compound under

conditions suitable for activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence and in the absence of the chemical compound, a change, e.g. an increase, in the second messenger response in the presence of the chemical compound indicating that the compound activates the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

This invention moreover provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and activates a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises contacting cells producing a second messenger response and expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with the chemical compound under conditions suitable for activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence and in the absence of the chemical compound, a change, e.g. an increase, in the second messenger response in the presence of the chemical compound indicating that the compound activates the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

In one embodiment, the second messenger response comprises chloride channel activation and the change in second messenger is an increase in the level of chloride current.

In another embodiment, the second messenger response comprises change in intracellular calcium levels and the change in second messenger is an increase in the measure of intracellular calcium. In another embodiment, the second messenger response comprises release of inositol phosphate and the change in second messenger is an increase in the level of inositol phosphate. In another embodiment, the second messenger response comprises release of arachidonic acid and the change in second messenger is an increase in the level of arachidonic acid. In yet another embodiment, the second messenger response comprises GTPyS ligand binding

and the change in second messenger is an increase in GTPyS ligand binding. In another embodiment, the second messenger response comprises activation of MAP kinase and the change in second messenger response is an increase in MAP kinase activation. In a further embodiment, the second messenger response comprises cAMP accumulation and the change in second messenger response is a reduction in cAMP accumulation.

This invention still further provides a process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and inhibits activation of a mammalian NMU receptor, which comprises separately contacting cells producing a second messenger response and expressing on their cell surface the mammalian NMU receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian NMU receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to activate the mammalian NMU receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for activation of the mammalian NMU receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence of only the second chemical compound and in the presence of both the second chemical compound and the chemical compound, a smaller change, e.g. increase, in the second messenger response in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound indicating that the chemical compound inhibits activation of the mammalian NMU receptor.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the second chemical compound is an NMU peptide. Examples of NMU peptides include, but are not limited to, human NMU-25, human NMU-8, porcine NMU-8, porcine NMU-25, rat NMU-25 and any peptide comprising the carboxyl terminal seven amino acid residues of human NMU-8.

In one embodiment, the second messenger response comprises chloride channel activation and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the level of chloride current in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound. In another embodiment, the second messenger response comprises change in intracellular calcium levels and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the measure of intracellular calcium in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound. In another embodiment, the second messenger response comprises release of inositol phosphate and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the level of inositol phosphate in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound.

In one embodiment, the second messenger response comprises activation of MAP kinase and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the level of MAP kinase activation in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound. In another embodiment, the second messenger response comprises change in cAMP levels and the change in second messenger response is a smaller change in the level of cAMP in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound. In another embodiment, the second messenger response comprises release of arachidonic acid and the change in second messenger response is an increase in the level of arachidonic acid levels in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the

presence of only the second chemical compound. In a further embodiment, the second messenger response comprises GTPyS ligand binding and the change in second messenger is a smaller increase in GTPyS ligand binding in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound.

In one embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor or a rat SNORF62b receptor. In a further embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor. In another embodiment, the cell is an insect cell. In another embodiment, the cell is a mammalian cell. In another embodiment, the mammalian cell is nonneuronal in origin. In another embodiment, the nonneuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, CHO cell, 293 human embryonic kidney cell, NIH-3T3 cell or LM(tk-) cell. In another embodiment, the compound is not previously known to bind to a mammalian NMU receptor.

Further, this invention provides a compound determined by a process according to this invention and a composition, for example, a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises an amount of a mammalian SNORF62, a mammalian SNORF72 or a mammalian NMU receptor agonist determined to be such by a process according to this invention effective to increase activity of a mammalian SNORF62, a mammalian SNORF72 or a mammalian NMU receptor and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In one embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62, mammalian SNORF72 or mammalian NMU receptor agonist is not previously known.

This invention also provides a composition, for example, a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises an amount of a mammalian SNORF62, a mammalian SNORF72 or a mammalian NMU

receptor antagonist determined to be such by a process according to this invention, effective to reduce activity of the mammalian SNORF62, the mammalian SNORF72 or the mammalian NMU receptor and a carrier, for example a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In one embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62, mammalian SNORF72 or mammalian NMU receptor antagonist is not previously known.

This invention yet further provides a method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to activate a mammalian SNORF62 receptor to identify a compound which activates the mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises: (a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF62 receptor with the plurality of compounds not known to activate the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor; (b) determining whether the activity of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is increased in the presence of one or more of the compounds; and if so (c) separately determining whether the activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is increased by any compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify each compound which activates the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

This invention yet further provides a method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to activate a mammalian SNORF72 receptor to identify a compound which activates the mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises: (a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the plurality of compounds not known to activate the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor; (b) determining whether the activity of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is increased in the presence of one or more of the compounds; and if so (c) separately

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receptor. In another embodiment, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell. In another embodiment, the mammalian cell is non-neuronal in origin. In another embodiment, the non-neuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a LM(tk-) cell or an NIH-3T3 cell.

This invention also provides a composition, for example, a pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound identified by a method according to this invention in an amount effective to increase mammalian NMU receptor activity and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

This invention also provides a composition, for example, a pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound identified by a method according to this invention in an amount effective to increase mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

This invention also provides a composition, for example, a pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound identified by a method according to this invention in an amount effective to increase mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

This invention still further provides a composition, for example, a pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound identified by a method according to this invention in an amount effective to decrease mammalian NMU receptor activity and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

This invention still further provides a composition, for example, a pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound

identified by a method according to this invention in an amount effective to decrease mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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This invention still further provides a composition, for example, a pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound identified by a method according to this invention in an amount effective to decrease mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity and a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Furthermore, this invention provides a method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises administering to the subject a compound which is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist in an amount effective to treat the abnormality.

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Furthermore, this invention provides a method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises administering to the subject a compound which is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist in an amount effective to treat the abnormality.

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In one embodiment, the abnormality is a regulation of a steroid hormone disorder, an epinephrine release disorder, a gastrointestinal disorder, a cardiovascular disorder, an electrolyte balance disorder, hypertension, diabetes, a respiratory disorder, asthma, a reproductive function disorder, an immune disorder, an endocrine disorder, a musculoskeletal disorder, a neuroendocrine disorder, a cognitive disorder, a memory disorder, somatosensory and neurotransmission disorders, metabolic disorders, a motor

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coordination disorder, a sensory integration disorder, a motor integration disorder, a dopaminergic function disorder, an appetite disorder, such as anorexia or obesity, a sensory transmission disorder, drug addiction, an olfaction disorder, an autonomic nervous system disorder, pain, neuropsychiatric disorders, affective disorder, migraine, circadian disorders, visual disorders, urinary disorders, blood coagulation-related disorders, developmental disorders, or ischemia-reperfusion injury-related diseases.

In a further embodiment, the abnormality is Addison's disease, Cushing's disease or a stress-related disorder. In yet another embodiment, the compounds and/or compositions of the present invention may be used to prevent miscarriage, induce labor or treat dysmenorrhea.

This invention additionally provides a method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises administering to the subject a compound which is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist in an amount effective to treat the abnormality.

This invention additionally provides a method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises administering to the subject a compound which is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist in an amount effective to treat the abnormality.

In one embodiment, the abnormality is a regulation of a steroid hormone disorder, an epinephrine release disorder, a gastrointestinal disorder, a cardiovascular disorder, an electrolyte balance disorder, hypertension, diabetes, a

respiratory disorder, asthma, a reproductive function disorder, an immune disorder, an endocrine disorder, a musculoskeletal disorder, a neuroendocrine disorder, a cognitive disorder, a memory disorder, somatosensory and neurotransmission disorders, metabolic disorders, a motor coordination disorder, a sensory integration disorder, a motor integration disorder, a dopaminergic function disorder, an appetite disorder, such as anorexia or obesity, a sensory transmission disorder, drug addiction, an olfaction disorder, an autonomic nervous system disorder, pain, neuropsychiatric disorders, affective disorder, migraine, circadian disorders, visual disorders, urinary disorders, blood coagulation-related disorders, developmental disorders, or ischemia-reperfusion injury-related diseases.

In one embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor or a rat SNORF62b receptor. In another embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

This invention also provides a process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian NMU receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using a process in accordance with this invention and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

This invention also provides a process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using a process in accordance with this invention and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

This invention also provides a process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using a process in accordance with this invention and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

This invention further provides a process for preparing a composition, for example a pharmaceutical composition which comprises admixing a carrier, for example, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a chemical compound identified by a process in accordance with this invention or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

In one embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor. In another embodiment, the mammalian NMU receptor is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor. In a further embodiment, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor, a rat SNORF62a receptor or a rat SNORF62b receptor. In a further embodiment, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

Thus, once the gene for a targeted receptor subtype is cloned, it is placed into a recipient cell which then expresses the targeted receptor subtype on its surface. This cell, which expresses a single population of the targeted human receptor subtype, is then propagated resulting in the establishment of a cell line. This cell line, which constitutes a drug discovery system, is used in two different types of assays: binding assays and functional assays. In binding assays, the affinity of a compound for both the receptor subtype that is the target of a particular drug discovery program and other receptor subtypes that

could be associated with side effects are measured. These measurements enable one to predict the potency of a compound, as well as the degree of selectivity that the compound has for the targeted receptor subtype over other receptor subtypes. The data obtained from binding assays also enable chemists to design compounds toward or away from one or more of the relevant subtypes, as appropriate, for optimal therapeutic efficacy. In functional assays, the nature of the response of the receptor subtype to the compound is determined. Data from the functional assays show whether the compound is acting to inhibit or enhance the activity of the receptor subtype, thus enabling pharmacologists to evaluate compounds rapidly at their ultimate human receptor subtypes targets permitting chemists to rationally design drugs that will be more effective and have fewer or substantially less severe side effects than existing drugs.

Approaches to designing and synthesizing receptor subtype-selective compounds are well known and include traditional medicinal chemistry and the newer technology of combinatorial chemistry, both of which are supported by computer-assisted molecular modeling. With such approaches, chemists and pharmacologists use their knowledge of the structures of the targeted receptor subtype and compounds determined to bind and/or activate or inhibit activation of the receptor subtype to design and synthesize structures that will have activity at these receptor subtypes.

Combinatorial chemistry involves automated synthesis of a variety of novel compounds by assembling them using different combinations of chemical building blocks. The use of combinatorial chemistry greatly accelerates the process of generating compounds. The resulting arrays of compounds are called libraries and are used to screen for compounds

("lead compounds") that demonstrate a sufficient level of activity at receptors of interest. Using combinatorial chemistry it is possible to synthesize "focused" libraries of compounds anticipated to be highly biased toward the receptor target of interest.

Once lead compounds are identified, whether through the use of combinatorial chemistry or traditional medicinal chemistry or otherwise, a variety of homologs and analogs are prepared to facilitate an understanding of the relationship between chemical structure and biological or functional activity. These studies define structure activity relationships which are then used to design drugs with improved potency, selectivity and pharmacokinetic properties. Combinatorial chemistry is also used to rapidly generate a variety of structures for lead optimization. Traditional medicinal chemistry, which involves the synthesis of compounds one at a time, is also used for further refinement and to generate compounds not accessible by automated techniques. Once such drugs are defined the production is scaled up using standard chemical manufacturing methodologies utilized throughout the pharmaceutical and chemistry industry.

This invention will be better understood from the Experimental Details which follow. However, one skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the specific methods and results discussed are merely illustrative of the invention as described more fully in the claims which follow thereafter.

EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Materials and Methods

Isolation of a full-length human SNORF62 receptor

The SwissPlus database was searched for G protein-coupled receptor sequences (GPCRs) using a select set of known GPCRs and the Wisconsin Package (GCG, Genetics Computer Group, Madison, WI). One sequence, 043664, was found which was most similar to the neurotensin receptor 1 (31% identity), as well as the recently identified motilin receptor, GPR38 (33% identity). 043664 was then chosen to be cloned for use in ligand-identification screens.

Before cloning the full-length receptor, the 5' and 3' ends of the coding sequence were verified by 5'/3' Rapid Amplification of cDNA Ends (RACE), using human hypothalamic Marathon-Ready cDNA (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA), the Marathon adaptor primers AP1 and AP2 (Clontech), and the primers JAB620, JAB621, JAB623, JAB624 and JAB622 set forth below.

A band of approximately 550 bp from the 5' RACE reaction was isolated from an agarose gel using the Qiaquick gel extraction kit (QIAGEN, Valencia, CA) and sequenced with JAB622. The sequence of this band indicated that the actual coding sequence of this receptor is longer than the sequence represented in the public database by 69 bp, coding for an additional potential initiating methionine 23 amino acids upstream from the methionine indicated by 043664. In addition, this 5' RACE sequence included some 5' untranslated sequence and an in-frame stop codon upstream from the new methionine. Sequencing of 3' RACE products revealed a sequence identical to the 3' end of 043664, in addition to some 3' untranslated sequence. The new (longer) coding sequence was named SNORF62.

From the new 5' untranslated sequence upstream from the new methionine and the 3' untranslated sequence, new primers were designed to amplify the entire SNORF62 sequence from human stomach cDNA using the Expand Long PCR system (Roche Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN). The primers JAB648 and, JAB627 were designed to incorporate restriction sites for subcloning into the expression vector pEXJ.T3T7. The resulting PCR product of approximately 1330 bp was digested with HindIII and BamHI and subcloned into the HindIII/BamHI site of pEXJ.T3T7. This construct of SNORF62 with the additional methionine, subcloned into pEXJ.T3T7 was named pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f.

Primers and probes used in the identification of SNORF62:

JAB620 = 5'-CCACGAAGATCAGCAGGTATGTGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 9)
JAB621 = 5'-GGCATGAACAGCTCTGTCTGCTGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 10)
JAB623 = 5'-CCAGCCGCTTCCGAGAGACCTTCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 11)
JAB624 = 5'-GCCTGCTGCCATCGCCTCAGACCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 12)
JAB622 = 5'-GCCCCAGGTACTTGAGTCTCAGTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 13)
JAB648 = 5'-ATCTATAAGCTTCGGAGGGTGGAAGCCGGGTCTC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 14)
JAB627 = 5'-ATCTATGGATCCTCAGGATGGATCGGTCTCTTGCTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 15)

Isolation of the rat SNORF62a and rat SNORF62b receptors

To obtain a fragment of the rat homologue of SNORF62, 100 ng of rat genomic DNA (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) and 1 µl of rat testes QUICK clone cDNA (Clontech) were amplified with forward PCR primers corresponding to TM1 (BB1611) or the 2nd intracellular loop (BB1614) and a reverse primer corresponding to TM6 (BB1612) of the mouse SNORF62 (GenEMBL Database Accession Number AF044602). PCR was performed with the Expand Long Template PCR System (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN) under the following conditions: 30 seconds at 94°C, 45 seconds at 49°C to 67.7°C,

2 minutes at 68°C for 40 cycles; with a pre- and post-
incubation of 5 minutes at 94°C and 7 minutes at 68°C,
respectively. Bands of 430 and 700 bp from 6 independent
reactions were isolated from a TAE gel, purified using the
GENECLEAN SPIN Kit (BIO101, Carlsbad, CA) and sequenced
using the ABI BigDye cycle sequencing protocol and ABI 377
sequencers (ABI, Foster City, CA). Sequences were analyzed
using the Wisconsin Package (GCG, Genetics Computer Group,
Madison, WI). A consensus sequence was determined for these
6 products.

5' and 3' RACE

The full length rat SNORF62 sequence was determined
utilizing the Clontech Marathon cDNA Amplification kit
(Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) for 5'/3' Rapid Amplification of
cDNA ends (RACE). Nested PCR were performed according to
the Marathon cDNA Amplification protocol using Marathon-
Ready rat spleen cDNA (Clontech). For 5' RACE, the initial
PCR was performed with the supplier's Adaptor Primer 1 and
BB1631, a reverse primer from TM3 of the consensus sequence
described above. Two µl of the initial PCR reaction was re-
amplified using the Adaptor Primer 2 and BB1630, a reverse
primer from the 1st extracellular loop. PCR was performed
with Advantage KlenTaq Polymerase (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA)
under the following conditions: 5 minutes at 94°C; 5 cycles
of 94°C for 30 seconds and 72°C for 3 minutes; 5 cycles of
94°C for 30 seconds and 70°C for 3 minutes; 25 cycles
(initial PCR) or 18 cycles (nested PCR) of 94°C for 30
seconds and 68°C for 3 minutes; 68°C hold for 7 minutes, and
4°C hold until the products were ready for analysis. 400
and 800 bp fragments were isolated from a 1% agarose TAE gel
using the GENECLEAN SPIN Kit and sequenced as above.

A second reaction was performed for 5' RACE using Marathon-
Ready rat spleen and testes cDNA (Clontech). The initial

PCR was performed with the supplier's Adaptor Primer 1 and BB1650, a reverse primer from TM1 of the RACE fragment described above. Two pls of the initial PCR reaction was re-amplified using the Adaptor Primer 2 and BB1649, a reverse primer from the amino terminus. PCR was performed as described above. 300 and 700 bp fragments were isolated from a 1% agarose TAE gel using the GENECLAN SPIN Kit and sequenced as above.

For 3' RACE, initial PCR was performed using Marathon-Ready rat spleen with the supplier's Adapter Primer 1 and BB1632, a forward primer from TM5 of the consensus sequence described above. Two pls of this initial PCR reaction was re-amplified using Adaptor Primer 2 and BB1633, a forward primer from the 3rd intracellular loop. PCR was performed with Advantage KlenTaq Polymerase (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) under the following conditions: 5 minutes at 94°C; 5 cycles of 94°C for 30 seconds and 72°C for 3 minutes; 5 cycles of 94°C for 30 seconds and 70°C for 3 minutes; 25 cycles (initial PCR) or 18 cycles (nested PCR) of 94°C for 30 seconds and 68°C for 3 minutes; 68°C hold for 7 minutes, and 4°C hold until the products were ready for analysis. A 1000 bp fragment was isolated from a 1% agarose TAE gel using the GENECLAN SPIN Kit and sequenced as above.

Primers and probes used in the identification of rat SNORF62a and rat SNORF62b:

BB1611 = 5'-TAC CTG CTG ATC TTC GTG GTG GG- 3' (SEQ ID NO: 30)

BB1612 = 5'-CAG TGC AAA CAG CAT CTT GGT CAC- 3' (SEQ ID NO: 31)

BB1614 = 5'-TAT GTG GCC GTG GTG CGC CCA CTC C- 3' (SEQ ID NO: 32)

BB1630 = 5'-CCA CCT GCA CCC AGC TGG AAT GGG- 3' (SEQ ID

NO: 33)

BB1631 = 5'-ACT GAA GCC AGG CAG ACA GTC TCC- 3' (SEQ ID

NO: 34)

BB1632 = 5'-TGG TCA CCA TCA GTG TGC TGT ACC- 3' (SEQ ID

NO: 35)

BB1633 = 5'-TGC GGA GGG AGA GGA TGT TGC TCC- 3' (SEQ ID

NO: 36)

BB1649 = 5'-CCC AAG TAC TTC AGC CTC AGG TCC- 3' (SEQ ID

NO: 37)

BB1650 = 5'-GGT CAA CCC GTT GCC CAG AGT GCC- 3' (SEQ ID

NO: 38)

Isolation of other species homologs of SNORF62 receptor cDNA

A nucleic acid sequence encoding a SNORF62 receptor cDNA from other species may be isolated using standard molecular biology techniques and approaches such as those described below:

Approach #1: A genomic library (e.g., cosmid, phage, P1, BAC, YAC) generated from the species of interest may be screened with a ³²P-labeled oligonucleotide probe corresponding to a fragment of the human SNORF62 receptor whose sequence is shown in Figures 1A-1B to isolate a genomic clone. The full-length sequence may be obtained by sequencing this genomic clone. If one or more introns are present in the gene, the full-length intronless gene may be obtained from cDNA using standard molecular biology techniques. For example, a forward PCR primer designed in the 5'UT and a reverse PCR primer designed in the 3'UT may be used to amplify a full-length, intronless receptor from cDNA. Standard molecular biology techniques could be used to subclone this gene into a mammalian expression vector.

Approach #2: Standard molecular biology techniques may be used to screen commercial cDNA phage libraries of the

species of interest by hybridization under reduced stringency with a ³²P-labeled oligonucleotide probe corresponding to a fragment of the sequences shown in Figures 1A-1B. One may isolate a full-length SNORF62 receptor by obtaining a plaque purified clone from the lambda libraries and then subjecting the clone to direct DNA sequencing. Alternatively, standard molecular biology techniques could be used to screen cDNA plasmid libraries by PCR amplification of library pools using primers designed against a partial species homolog sequence. A full-length clone may be isolated by Southern hybridization of colony lifts of positive pools with a ³²P-oligonucleotide probe.

Approach #3: 3' and 5' RACE may be utilized to generate PCR products from cDNA derived from the species of interest expressing SNORF62 which contain the additional sequence of SNORF62. These RACE PCR products may then be sequenced to determine the additional sequence. This new sequence is then used to design a forward PCR primer in the 5'UT and a reverse primer in the 3'UT. These primers are then used to amplify a full-length SNORF62 clone from cDNA.

Examples of other species include, but are not limited to, mouse, dog, monkey, hamster and guinea pig.

Isolation of a full-length human SNORF72 receptor

A search of the public domain databases revealed an amino acid sequence that was 46% identical to the amino acid sequence of SNORF62. This sequence was given the name human SNORF72. Primers were designed against the 5'- and 3'- untranslated regions of SNORF72, with restriction sites incorporated for subcloning purposes. GSL42 is a forward primer in the 5' untranslated region with a NotI site incorporated into the 5' end of the primer, and GSL43 is a reverse primer in the 3' untranslated region with an XbaI

site incorporated into the 5' end of the primer. These primers were used to amplify the full-length sequence from human whole-brain cDNA using the Expand Long Template PCR system (Roche Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN). Sequencing of several clones from independent PCR reactions indicated that the actual sequence of SNORF72 differed from the published sequence at five base positions, four of which changed the amino acid sequence of the receptor. This sequence-verified SNORF72 clone was subcloned into the NotI/XbaI site of the mammalian expression vector pEXJ.T3T7 and named pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f.

Primers and probes used in the identification of SNORF72:

GSL42 = 5'-ATCTATGCGCCGCTTGAAACAGAGCCTCGTACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 16)

GSL43 = 5'-ATCTATTCTAGAGTTGTAAGAGCCATTCTACCTC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 17)

Isolation of a full-length rat SNORF72 receptor

A pair of oligo primers, BB1606 and BB1607 (set forth below), were synthesized based on sequence of the human SNORF72 gene. A PCR reaction was performed using this primer pair on rat brain cDNA from Clontech. The PCR condition used was 95°C for 5 minutes for initial denaturation, 94°C for 30 seconds followed by 50°C for 30 seconds and 68°C for 90 seconds for total of 40 cycles, finished with extension at 68°C for 7 minutes. The PCR product was sequenced and another pair of oligo primers, BB1609 and BB1610 (set forth below), were synthesized based on the sequencing information obtained. An oligo(dT) primed cDNA library from rat hypothalamus was screened by PCR using BB1609 and BB1610 as primers, and three positive pools were found from the first 188 pools screened. The PCR condition used was: 94°C for 4 minutes for initial denaturation, 94°C for 30 seconds followed by 68°C for 90 seconds for total of 40 cycles,

finished with extension at 68°C for 7 minutes. After two rounds of sib-selection, colonies were plated and positive clones were screened by hybridization with a radiolabeled oligonucleotide probe KS2008. A positive clone containing a 3.5kb cDNA insert was isolated and found to contain the full coding region of rat SNORF72 by sequence analysis.

Primers and probes used in the identification of rat SNORF72:

BB1606 = 5'-TCTATGAGATGTGGCGCAACTACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 39)
BB1607 = 5'-AACACTAAGACCAAGACAAACAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 40)
BB1609 = 5'-GTCACCACGGTTAGCGTAGAGCGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 41)
BB1610 = 5'-GAGGGTCTGTGAATATTCACAGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 42)
KS2008 = 5'-CCCAACGGGTCCTCCGTACCTGGCTCAGCCACCTGCACAGTCACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 43)

Isolation of other species homologs of SNORF72 receptor cDNA

A nucleic acid sequence encoding a SNORF72 receptor cDNA from other species may be isolated using standard molecular biology techniques and approaches such as those described below:

Approach #1: A genomic library (e.g., cosmid, phage, Pl, BAC, YAC) generated from the species of interest may be screened with a ³²P-labeled oligonucleotide probe corresponding to a fragment of the human SNORF72 receptor whose sequence is shown in Figures 3A-3B to isolate a genomic clone. The full-length sequence may be obtained by sequencing this genomic clone. If one or more introns are present in the gene, the full-length intronless gene may be obtained from cDNA using standard molecular biology techniques. For example, a forward PCR primer designed in the 5'UT and a reverse PCR primer designed in the 3'UT may be used to amplify a full-length, intronless receptor from

cdNA. Standard molecular biology techniques could be used to subclone this gene into a mammalian expression vector.

5 Approach #2: Standard molecular biology techniques may be used to screen commercial cdNA phage libraries of the species of interest by hybridization under reduced stringency with a ^{32}P -labeled oligonucleotide probe corresponding to a fragment of the sequences shown in Figures 3A-3B. One may isolate a full-length SNORF72 receptor by obtaining a plaque purified clone from the lambda libraries and then subjecting the clone to direct DNA sequencing. Alternatively, standard molecular biology techniques could be used to screen cdNA plasmid libraries by PCR amplification of library pools using primers designed against a partial species homolog sequence. A full-length clone may be isolated by Southern hybridization of colony lifts of positive pools with a ^{32}P -oligonucleotide probe.

20 Approach #3: 3' and 5' RACE may be utilized to generate PCR products from cdNA derived from the species of interest expressing SNORF72 which contain the additional sequence of SNORF72. These RACE PCR products may then be sequenced to determine the additional sequence. This new sequence is then used to design a forward PCR primer in the 5'UT and a reverse primer in the 3'UT. These primers are then used to
25 amplify a full-length SNORF72 clone from cdNA.

Examples of other species include, but are not limited to, mouse, dog, monkey, hamster and guinea pig.

30 Host cells

A broad variety of host cells can be used to study heterologously expressed proteins. These cells include but are not limited to mammalian cell lines such as; COS-7, CHO, LM(tk⁻), HEK293, etc.; insect cell lines such as; Sf9, Sf21,
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Trichoplusia ni 5B-4, etc.; amphibian cells such as *Xenopus* oocytes; assorted yeast strains; assorted bacterial cell strains; and others. Culture conditions for each of these cell types is specific and is known to those familiar with the art.

COS-7 cells are grown on 150 mm plates in DMEM with supplements (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium with 10% bovine calf serum, 4 mM glutamine, 100 units/ml penicillin 100 µg/ml streptomycin) at 37°C, 5% CO₂. Stock plates of COS-7 cells are trypsinized and split 1:6 every 3-4 days.

Transient expression

DNA encoding proteins to be studied can be transiently expressed in a variety of mammalian, insect, amphibian, yeast, bacterial and other cells lines by several transfection methods including but not limited to; calcium phosphate-mediated, DEAE-dextran mediated; liposomal-mediated, viral-mediated, electroporation-mediated, and microinjection delivery. Each of these methods may require optimization of assorted experimental parameters depending on the DNA, cell line, and the type of assay to be subsequently employed.

A typical protocol for the DEAE-dextran method as applied to COS-7 and HEK293 cells is described as follows. Cells to be used for transfection are split 24 hours prior to the transfection to provide flasks which are 70-80% confluent at the time of transfection. Briefly, 8 µg of receptor DNA plus 8 µg of any additional DNA needed (e.g. G_α protein expression vector, reporter construct, antibiotic resistance marker, mock vector, etc.) are added to 9 ml of complete DMEM plus DEAE-dextran mixture (10 mg/ml in PBS). Cells plated into a T225 flask (sub-confluent) are washed once with PBS and the DNA mixture is added to each flask. The

cells are allowed to incubate for 30 minutes at 37°C, 5% CO₂. Following the incubation, 36 ml of complete DMEM with 80 µM chloroquine is added to each flask and allowed to incubate an additional 3 hours. The medium is then aspirated and 24 ml of complete medium containing 10% DMSO for exactly 2 minutes and then aspirated. The cells are then washed 2 times with PBS and 30 ml of complete DMEM added to each flask. The cells are then allowed to incubate over night. The next day the cells are harvested by trypsinization and reseeded into 96 well plates.

Stable expression

Heterologous DNA can be stably incorporated into host cells, causing the cell to perpetually express a foreign protein. Methods for the delivery of the DNA into the cell are similar to those described above for transient expression but require the co-transfection of an ancillary gene to confer drug resistance on the targeted host cell. The ensuing drug resistance can be exploited to select and maintain cells that have taken up the DNA. An assortment of resistance genes are available including but not restricted to neomycin, kanamycin, and hygromycin. For purposes of studies concerning the receptor of this invention, stable expression of a heterologous receptor protein is typically carrier out in, mammalian cells including but not necessarily restricted to, CHO, HEK293, LM(tk-), etc. In addition native cell lines that naturally carry and express the nucleic acid sequences for the receptor may be used without the need to engineer the receptor complement.

Functional assays

Cells expressing the receptor DNA of this invention may be used to screen for ligands to said receptor using functional assays. Once a ligand is identified the same assays may be used to identify agonists or antagonists of the receptor

that may be employed for a variety of therapeutic purposes. It is well known to those in the art that the over-expression of a G-protein coupled receptor can result in the constitutive activation of intracellular signaling pathways. In the same manner, over-expression of the receptors of the present invention in any cell line as described above, can result in the activation of the functional responses described below, and any of the assays herein described can be used to screen for agonist, partial agonist, inverse agonist and antagonist ligands of the SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptors.

A wide spectrum of assays can be employed to screen for the presence of receptor SNORF62 and SNORF72 ligands. These assays range from traditional measurements of total inositol phosphate accumulation, cAMP levels, intracellular calcium mobilization, and potassium currents, for example; to systems measuring these same second messengers but which have been modified or adapted to be of higher throughput, more generic and more sensitive; to cell based assays reporting more general cellular events resulting from receptor activation such as metabolic changes, differentiation, cell division/proliferation. Description of several such assays follow.

Cyclic AMP (cAMP) assay

The receptor-mediated stimulation or inhibition of cyclic AMP (cAMP) formation may be assayed in cells expressing the receptors. COS-7 cells are transiently transfected with the receptor gene using the DEAE-dextran method and plated in 96-well plates. 48 hours after transfection, cells are washed twice with Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline (PBS) supplemented with 10 mM HEPES, 10 mM glucose and 5 mM theophylline and are incubated in the same buffer for 20 min at 37°C, in 5% CO₂. Test compounds are added and cells are

incubated for an additional 10 min at 37°C. The medium is then aspirated and the reaction stopped by the addition of 100 mM HCl. The plates are stored at -20°C for 2-5 days. For cAMP measurement, plates are thawed and the cAMP content in each well is measured by cAMP Scintillation Proximity Assay (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech). Radioactivity is quantified using microbeta Trilux counter (Wallac).

Arachidonic acid release assay

Cells expressing the receptor are seeded into 96 well plates or other vessels and grown for 3 days in medium with supplements. ³H-arachidonic acid (specific activity = 0.75 µCi/ml) is delivered as a 100 µL aliquot to each well and samples are incubated at 37° C, 5% CO₂ for 18 hours. The labeled cells are washed three times with medium. The wells are then filled with medium and the assay is initiated with the addition of test compounds or buffer in a total volume of 250 µL. Cells are incubated for 30 min at 37°C, 5% CO₂. Supernatants are transferred to a microtiter plate and evaporated to dryness at 75°C in a vacuum oven. Samples are then dissolved and resuspended in 25 µL distilled water. Scintillant (300 µL) is added to each well and samples are counted for ³H in a Trilux plate reader. Data are analyzed using nonlinear regression and statistical techniques available in the GraphPAD Prism package (San Diego, CA).

Intracellular calcium mobilization assays

The intracellular free calcium (Ca²⁺) concentration may be measured by microspectrofluorimetry using the fluorescent indicator dye Fura-2/AM (Bush et al., 1991). Cells expressing the receptor are seeded onto a 35mm culture dish containing a glass coverslip insert and allowed to adhere overnight. Cells are then washed with HBS and loaded with 100 µL of Fura-2/AM (10 µM) for 20 to 40 min. After washing with HBS to remove the Fura-2/AM solution, cells are

equilibrated in HBS for 10 to 20 min. Cells are then visualized under the 40X objective of a Leitz Fluovert FS microscope and fluorescence emission is determined at 510 nM with excitation wavelengths alternating between 340 nM and 380 nM. Raw fluorescence data are converted to Ca^{2+} concentrations using standard Ca^{2+} concentration curves and software analysis techniques.

In another method, the measurement of intracellular Ca^{2+} can also be performed on a 96-well (or higher) format and with alternative Ca^{2+} -sensitive indicators, preferred examples of these are: aequorin, Fluo-3, Fluo-4, Fluo-5, Calcium Green-1, Oregon Green, and 488 BAPTA. After activation of the receptors with agonist ligands the emission elicited by the change of intracellular Ca^{2+} concentration can be measured by a luminometer, or a fluorescence imager; a preferred example of this is the fluorescence imager plate reader (FLIPR™, Molecular Devices).

Cells expressing the receptor of interest are plated into clear, flat-bottom, black-walled 96-well plates (Costar) at a density of 80,000-150,000 cells per well and allowed to incubate for 48 hr at 5% CO_2 , 37°C. The growth medium is aspirated and 100 μL of loading medium containing Fluo-3 dye is added to each well. The loading medium contains: 20 mM HEPES (Sigma), 0.1% BSA (Sigma), dye/pluronic acid mixture (e.g. 1 mM Fluo-3/AM (Molecular Probes) and 10% pluronic acid (Molecular Probes) mixed immediately before use), and 2.5 mM probenecid (Sigma) (prepared fresh). The cells are allowed to incubate for about 1 hour at 5% CO_2 , 37°C.

The compounds of interest are diluted in wash buffer (Hank's BSS (without phenol red), 20 mM HEPES, 2.5 mM probenecid) to a 4X final concentration and aliquoted into a clear v-bottom plate (Nunc). Following the dye incubation, the cells are

washed 4 times to remove excess dye using a Denley plate washer. 100 μ L final volume of wash buffer is then added to each cell well. Compounds are added to the cell plates and responses are measured using the FLIPR™ instrument. The data are then collected and analyzed using the FLIPR™ software and Graphpad Prism.

Antagonist ligands are identified by the inhibition of the signal elicited by agonist ligands.

GTP γ S functional assay

Membranes from cells expressing the receptor are suspended in assay buffer (e.g., 50 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, 10 μ M GDP, pH 7.4) with or without protease inhibitors (e.g., 0.1% bacitracin). Membranes are incubated on ice for 20 minutes, transferred to a 96-well Millipore microtiter GF/C filter plate and mixed with GTP γ S³⁵ (e.g., 250,000 cpm/sample, specific activity ~1000 Ci/mmol) plus or minus unlabeled GTP γ S (final concentration = 100 μ M). Final membrane protein concentration \approx 90 μ g/ml. Samples are incubated in the presence or absence of test compounds for 30 min. at room temperature, then filtered on a Millipore vacuum manifold and washed three times with cold (4°C) assay buffer. Samples collected in the filter plate are treated with scintillant and counted for ³⁵S in a Trilux (Wallac) liquid scintillation counter. It is expected that optimal results are obtained when the receptor membrane preparation is derived from an appropriately engineered heterologous expression system, i.e., an expression system resulting in high levels of expression of the receptor and/or expressing G-proteins having high turnover rates (for the exchange of GDP for GTP). GTP γ S assays are well-known to those skilled in the art, and it is contemplated that variations on the method described above, such as are described by Tian et al. (1994) or Lazareno and Birdsall (1993), may be used.

Microphysiometric assay

Because cellular metabolism is intricately involved in a broad range of cellular events (including receptor activation of multiple messenger pathways), the use of microphysiometric measurements of cell metabolism can in principle provide a generic assay of cellular activity arising from the activation of any orphan receptor regardless of the specifics of the receptor's signaling pathway.

General guidelines for transient receptor expression, cell preparation and microphysiometric recording are described elsewhere (Salon, J.A. and Owicki, J.A., 1996). Typically cells expressing receptors are harvested and seeded at 3×10^5 cells per microphysiometer capsule in complete media 24 hours prior to an experiment. The media is replaced with serum free media 16 hours prior to recording to minimize non-specific metabolic stimulation by assorted and ill-defined serum factors. On the day of the experiment the cell capsules are transferred to the microphysiometer and allowed to equilibrate in recording media (low buffer RPMI 1640, no bicarbonate, no serum (Molecular Devices Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA) containing 0.1% fatty acid free BSA), during which a baseline measurement of basal metabolic activity is established.

A standard recording protocol specifies a 100 $\mu\text{l}/\text{min}$ flow rate, with a 2 min total pump cycle which includes a 30 sec flow interruption during which the acidification rate measurement is taken. Ligand challenges involve a 1 min 20 sec exposure to the sample just prior to the first post challenge rate measurement being taken, followed by two additional pump cycles for a total of 5 min 20 sec sample exposure. Typically, drugs in a primary screen are presented to the cells at 10 μM final concentration.

Follow up experiments to examine dose-dependency of active compounds are then done by sequentially challenging the cells with a drug concentration range that exceeds the amount needed to generate responses ranging from threshold to maximal levels. Ligand samples are then washed out and the acidification rates reported are expressed as a percentage increase of the peak response over the baseline rate observed just prior to challenge.

MAP kinase assay

MAP kinase (mitogen activated kinase) may be monitored to evaluate receptor activation. MAP kinase is activated by multiple pathways in the cell. A primary mode of activation involves the ras/raf/MEK/MAP kinase pathway. Growth factor (tyrosine kinase) receptors feed into this pathway via SHC/Grb-2/SOS/ras. Gi coupled receptors are also known to activate ras and subsequently produce an activation of MAP kinase. Receptors that activate phospholipase C (such as Gq/G11-coupled) produce diacylglycerol (DAG) as a consequence of phosphatidyl inositol hydrolysis. DAG activates protein kinase C which in turn phosphorylates MAP kinase.

MAP kinase activation can be detected by several approaches. One approach is based on an evaluation of the phosphorylation state, either unphosphorylated (inactive) or phosphorylated (active). The phosphorylated protein has a slower mobility in SDS-PAGE and can therefore be compared with the unstimulated protein using Western blotting. Alternatively, antibodies specific for the phosphorylated protein are available (New England Biolabs) which can be used to detect an increase in the phosphorylated kinase. In either method, cells are stimulated with the test compound and then extracted with Laemmli buffer. The soluble fraction is applied to an SDS-PAGE gel and proteins are

transferred electrophoretically to nitrocellulose or Immobilon. Immunoreactive bands are detected by standard Western blotting technique. Visible or chemiluminescent signals are recorded on film and may be quantified by densitometry.

Another approach is based on evaluation of the MAP kinase activity via a phosphorylation assay. Cells are stimulated with the test compound and a soluble extract is prepared. The extract is incubated at 30°C for 10 min with gamma-³²P-ATP, an ATP regenerating system, and a specific substrate for MAP kinase such as phosphorylated heat and acid stable protein regulated by insulin, or PHAS-I. The reaction is terminated by the addition of H₃PO₄ and samples are transferred to ice. An aliquot is spotted onto Whatman P81 chromatography paper, which retains the phosphorylated protein. The chromatography paper is washed and counted for ³²P in a liquid scintillation counter. Alternatively, the cell extract is incubated with gamma-³²P-ATP, an ATP regenerating system, and biotinylated myelin basic protein bound by streptavidin to a filter support. The myelin basic protein is a substrate for activated MAP kinase. The phosphorylation reaction is carried out for 10 min at 30°C. The extract can then be aspirated through the filter, which retains the phosphorylated myelin basic protein. The filter is washed and counted for ³²P by liquid scintillation counting.

Cell proliferation assay

Receptor activation of the orphan receptor may lead to a mitogenic or proliferative response which can be monitored via ³H-thymidine uptake. When cultured cells are incubated with ³H-thymidine, the thymidine translocates into the nuclei where it is phosphorylated to thymidine triphosphate. The nucleotide triphosphate is then incorporated into the

cellular DNA at a rate that is proportional to the rate of cell growth. Typically, cells are grown in culture for 1-3 days. Cells are forced into quiescence by the removal of serum for 24 hrs. A mitogenic agent is then added to the media. 24 hrs later, the cells are incubated with ^3H -thymidine at specific activities ranging from 1 to 10 $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ for 2-6 hrs. Harvesting procedures may involve trypsinization and trapping of cells by filtration over GF/C filters with or without a prior incubation in TCA to extract soluble thymidine. The filters are processed with scintillant and counted for ^3H by liquid scintillation counting. Alternatively, adherent cells are fixed in MeOH or TCA, washed in water, and solubilized in 0.05% deoxycholate/0.1 N NaOH. The soluble extract is transferred to scintillation vials and counted for ^3H by liquid scintillation counting.

Alternatively, cell proliferation can be assayed by measuring the expression of an endogenous or heterologous gene product, expressed by the cell line used to transfect the orphan receptor, which can be detected by methods such as, but not limited to, fluorescence intensity, enzymatic activity, immunoreactivity, DNA hybridization, polymerase chain reaction, etc.

Promiscuous second messenger assays

It is not possible to predict, a priori and based solely upon the GPCR sequence, which of the cell's many different signaling pathways any given receptor will naturally use.

It is possible, however, to coax receptors of different functional classes to signal through a pre-selected pathway through the use of promiscuous G_α subunits. For example, by providing a cell based receptor assay system with an endogenously supplied promiscuous G_α subunit such as $G_{\alpha 15}$ or $G_{\alpha 16}$ or a chimeric G_α subunit such as $G_{\alpha qz}$, a GPCR, which might

normally prefer to couple through a specific signaling pathway (e.g., G_s , G_i , G_q , G_o , etc.), can be made to couple through the pathway defined by the promiscuous G_α subunit and upon agonist activation produce the second messenger associated with that subunit's pathway. In the case of $G_{\alpha 15}$, $G_{\alpha 16}$ and/or $G_{\alpha qz}$ this would involve activation of the G_q pathway and production of the second messenger IP_3 . Through the use of similar strategies and tools, it is possible to bias receptor signaling through pathways producing other second messengers such as Ca^{++} , cAMP, and K^+ currents, for example (Milligan and Rees, 1999).

It follows that the promiscuous interaction of the exogenously supplied G_α subunit with the receptor alleviates the need to carry out a different assay for each possible signaling pathway and increases the chances of detecting a functional signal upon receptor activation.

Methods for recording currents in *Xenopus* oocytes

Oocytes are harvested from *Xenopus laevis* and injected with mRNA transcripts as previously described (Quick and Lester, 1994; Smith et al., 1997). The test receptor of this invention and G_α subunit RNA transcripts are synthesized using the T7 polymerase ("Message Machine," Ambion) from linearized plasmids or PCR products containing the complete coding region of the genes. Oocytes are injected with 10 ng synthetic receptor RNA and incubated for 3-8 days at 17 degrees. Three to eight hours prior to recording, oocytes are injected with 500 pg promiscuous G_α subunits mRNA in order to observe coupling to Ca^{++} activated Cl^- currents. Dual electrode voltage clamp (Axon Instruments Inc.) is performed using 3 M KCl-filled glass microelectrodes having resistances of 1-2 MOhm. Unless otherwise specified, oocytes are voltage clamped at a holding potential of -80 mV. During recordings, oocytes are bathed in continuously

flowing (1-3 ml/min) medium containing 96 mM NaCl, 2 mM KCl, 1.8 mM CaCl₂, 1 mM MgCl₂, and 5 mM HEPES, pH 7.5 (ND96).

Drugs are applied either by local perfusion from a 10 µl glass capillary tube fixed at a distance of 0.5 mm from the oocyte, or by switching from a series of gravity fed perfusion lines.

Other oocytes may be injected with a mixture of receptor mRNAs and synthetic mRNA encoding the genes for G-protein-activated inward rectifier channels (GIRK1 and GIRK4, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,734,021 and 5,728,535 or GIRK1 and GIRK2) or any other appropriate combination (see, e.g., Inanobe et al., 1999). Genes encoding G-protein inwardly rectifying K⁺ (GIRK) channels 1,2 and 4 (GIRK1, GIRK2, and GIRK4) may be obtained by PCR using the published sequences (Kubo et al., 1993; Dascal et al., 1993; Krapivinsky et al., 1995 and 1995b) to derive appropriate 5' and 3' primers. Human heart or brain cDNA may be used as template together with appropriate primers.

Heterologous expression of GPCRs in *Xenopus* oocytes has been widely used to determine the identity of signaling pathways activated by agonist stimulation (Gundersen et al., 1983; Takahashi et al., 1987). Activation of the phospholipase C (PLC) pathway is assayed by applying a test compound in ND96 solution to oocytes previously injected with mRNA for the human SNORF62 and observing inward currents at a holding potential of approximately -80 mV. The appearance of currents that reverse at -25 mV and display other properties of the Ca⁺⁺-activated Cl⁻ channel is indicative of receptor-activation of PLC and release of IP₃ and intracellular Ca⁺⁺. Such activation is exhibited by GPCRs that couple to G_q or G₁₁.

Measurement of inwardly rectifying K⁺ (potassium) channel

(GIRK) activity may be monitored in oocytes that have been co-injected with mRNAs encoding the mammalian receptor plus GIRK subunits. GIRK gene products co-assemble to form a G-protein activated potassium channel known to be activated (i.e., stimulated) by a number of GPCRs that couple to G_i or G_o (Kubo et al., 1993; Dascal et al., 1993). Oocytes expressing the mammalian receptor plus the GIRK subunits are tested for test compound responsitivity by measuring K^+ currents in elevated K^+ solution containing 49 mM K^+ .

In the present invention, oocytes were harvested from *Xenopus laevis* and injected with mRNA transcripts as previously described (Quick and Lester, 1994; Smith et al., 1997). SNORF62 mRNA transcript was synthesized using the T7 polymerase ("Message Machine", Ambion) from linearized plasmids or PCR products containing the complete coding region of the gene. Oocytes were injected with 1-50 ng synthetic receptor RNA and incubated for 3-8 days at 17°C. Currents were recorded under dual electrode voltage clamp (Axon Instruments Inc.) with 3 M KCl-filled glass microelectrodes having resistances of 1-2 Mohm. Unless otherwise specified, oocytes were voltage clamped at a holding potential of -80 mV. During recordings, oocytes were bathed in continuously flowing (1-3 mL/min) medium containing 96 mM NaCl, 2 mM KCl, 1.8 mM $CaCl_2$, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, and 5 mM HEPES, pH 7.5 (ND96). Drugs were applied either by local perfusion from a 10 μ L glass capillary tube fixed at a distance of 0.5 mm from the oocyte, or by switching from a series of gravity fed perfusion lines.

Inositol phosphate assay

Human SNORF62 receptor-mediated activation and human SNORF72 receptor-mediated activation of the inositol phosphate (IP) second messenger pathways were assessed by radiometric measurement of IP products.

For example, in a 96 well microplate format assay, COS-7 cells expressing the receptor of interest were plated at a density of 70,000 cells per well and allowed to incubate for 24 hours. The cells were then labeled with 0.5 μ Ci [3 H]myo-inositol overnight at 37°C, 5% CO₂. Immediately before the assay, the medium was removed and replaced with 180 μ L of Phosphate-Buffered Saline (PBS) containing 10 mM LiCl. The plates were then incubated for 20 min at 37°C, 5% CO₂. Following the incubation, the cells were challenged with agonist (20 μ L/well; 10x concentration) for 30 min at 37°C. The challenge was terminated by the addition of 100 μ L of 5% v/v trichloroacetic acid, followed by incubation at 4°C for greater than 30 minutes. Total IPs were isolated from the lysate by ion exchange chromatography. Briefly, the lysed contents of the wells were transferred to a Multiscreen HV filter plate (Millipore) containing Dowex AG1-X8 (200-400 mesh, formate form). The filter plates were prepared adding 100 μ L of Dowex AG1-X8 suspension (50% v/v, water: resin) to each well. The filter plates were placed on a vacuum manifold to wash or elute the resin bed. Each well was first washed 2 times with 200 μ L of 5 mM myo-inositol. Total [3 H]inositol phosphates were eluted with 75 μ L of 1.2M ammonium formate/0.1M formic acid solution into 96-well plates. 200 μ L of scintillation cocktail was added to each well, and the radioactivity was determined by liquid scintillation counting.

Membrane preparations

Cell membranes expressing the receptor protein of this invention are useful for certain types of assays including but not restricted to ligand binding assays, GTP- γ -S binding assays, and others. The specifics of preparing such cell membranes may in some cases be determined by the nature of the ensuing assay but typically involve harvesting whole cells and disrupting the cell pellet by sonication in ice

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Cells expressing the receptors of this invention may be used to screen for ligands for said receptors, for example, by

[¹²⁵I]rat NMU-23 and [¹²⁵I]NMU-8 binding assays. The same assays may be used to identify agonists or antagonists of the receptor that may be employed for a variety of therapeutic purposes.

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Radioligand binding assays were performed by diluting membranes prepared from cells expressing the receptor in 50 mM Tris buffer (pH = 7.4 at 0°C) containing 0.1% bovine serum albumin (Sigma), aprotinin (0.005 mg/ml, Boehringer Mannheim) and bestatin (0.1 mM, Sigma) as protease inhibitors. The final protein concentration in the assay was 12 - 40 µg/ml. Membranes were then incubated with either [¹²⁵I]rat NMU-23 or [¹²⁵I]NMU-8 (NEN, specific activity 2200 Ci/mmol) in the presence or absence of competing ligands on ice for 60 min in a total volume of 250 µl in 96 well microtiter plates. The bound ligand was separated from free by filtration through GF/B filters presoaked in 0.5% polyethyleneimine (PEI), using a Tomtec (Wallac) vacuum filtration device. After addition of Ready Safe (Beckman) scintillation fluid, bound radioactivity was quantitated using a Trilux (Wallac) scintillation counter (approximately 40% counting efficiency of bound counts). Data was fit to non-linear curves using GraphPad Prism.

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In this manner, agonist or antagonist compounds that bind to the receptor may be identified as they inhibit the binding of the labeled ligand to the membrane protein of cells expressing the said receptor. Non-specific binding was defined as the amount of radioactivity remaining after incubation of membrane protein in the presence of 100 nM of the unlabeled peptide corresponding to the radioligand used. In equilibrium saturation binding assays membrane preparations or intact cells transfected with the receptor are incubated in the presence of increasing concentrations of the labeled compound to determine the binding affinity of

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the labeled ligand. The binding affinities of unlabeled compounds may be determined in equilibrium competition binding assays, using a fixed concentration of labeled compound (0.05 - 0.1 nM for [¹²⁵I]rat NMU-23) in the presence of varying concentrations of the displacing ligands.

Localization of mRNA coding for human SNORF62 and human SNORF72.

Quantitative PCR using a fluorogenic probe with real time detection

Quantitative PCR using fluorogenic probes used to characterize the distribution of SNORF62 and SNORF72 RNA. This assay utilizes two oligonucleotides for conventional PCR amplification and a third specific oligonucleotide probe that is labeled with a reporter at the 5' end and a quencher at the 3' end of the oligonucleotide. In the instant invention, FAM (6-carboxyfluorescein) was used as the reporter, and TAMRA (6-carboxy-4,7,2,7'-tetramethyl-rhodamine) was the quencher. As amplification progresses, the labeled oligonucleotide probe hybridizes to the gene sequence between the two oligonucleotides used for amplification. The nuclease activity of *Taq* thermostable DNA polymerase is utilized to cleave the labeled probe. This separates the quencher from the reporter and generates a fluorescent signal that is directly proportional to the amount of amplicon generated. This labeled probe confers a high degree of specificity. Non-specific amplification is not detected as the labeled probe does not hybridize and as a consequence is not cleaved. All experiments were conducted in a PE7700 Sequence Detection System (Perkin Elmer, Foster City CA).

Quantitative RT-PCR

Quantitative RT-PCR was used for the detection of SNORF62 and SNORF72 RNA. For use as a template in quantitative PCR

reactions, cDNA was synthesized by reverse transcription from total human RNA. Reverse transcription by SuperScriptII RNase H⁻ (GibcoBRL/life Technologies) was primed using random hexamers. Parallel reactions included ³²P labeled dCTP to allow quantification of the cDNA. Following reverse transcription, cDNA was phenol/chloroform extracted and precipitated. Incorporation of ³²P dCTP was assessed after precipitation with trichloroacetic acid and the amount of cDNA synthesized was calculated.

For PCR reactions primers with the following oligonucleotide sequences were used:

Human SNORF62:

Forward primer

snorf62h.txt-115F

5'-CAATGGCAGTGCGGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 18)

Reverse primer

snorf62h.txt-239R

5'-GGTATGTGGCACAGATGGGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 19)

Fluorogenic oligonucleotide probe:

snorf62h.txt-138T

5' (6-FAM)- ACTTTGACCCTGAGGACTTGAACCTGACTG-(TAMRA) 3' (SEQ ID NO: 20)

Human SNORF72:

Forward primer:

snorf 72h.txt-179F

5'-CCTCGGCGCAGCCAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)

Reverse primer

snorf 72h.txt-275R

5'-GAATCACCAGGCACACCAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 22)

Fluorogenic oligonucleotide probe:

snorf 72h.txt-203T

5' (6-FAM)-CCCGTGTCTGTGGTGTATGTGCCAAT-(TAMRA)3' (SEQ ID NO:
23)

Using these primer pairs, amplicon length is 124 bp for
SNORF62, and 96 bp for SNORF72. Each PCR reaction contained
3.0 ng cDNA. Oligonucleotide concentrations were: 500 nM of
forward and reverse primers, and 200 nM of fluorogenic
probe. PCR reactions were carried out in 50 µl volumes
using TaqMan universal PCR master mix (PE Applied
Biosystems). Buffer for RT-PCR reactions contained a fluor
used as a passive reference (ROX: Perkin Elmer proprietary
passive reference I). All reagents for PCR (except cDNA and
oligonucleotide primers) were obtained from Perkin Elmer
(Foster City, CA). Reactions were carried in a PE7700
sequence detection system (PE Applied Biosystems) using the
following thermal cycler profile: 50°C 2 min., 95°C 10 min.,
followed by 40 cycles of: 95°C, 15 sec., 60°C 1 min.

Positive controls for PCR reactions consisted of
amplification of the target sequence from a plasmid
construct when available. Standard curves for quantitation
of human SNORF62 and SNORF72 were constructed using genomic
DNA. Negative controls consisted of mRNA blanks, as well as
primer and mRNA blanks. To confirm that the mRNA was not
contaminated with genomic DNA, PCR reactions were carried
out without reverse transcription using Taq DNA polymerase.
Integrity of RNA was assessed by amplification of RNA coding
for cyclophilin or glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase
(GAPDH). Following reverse transcription and PCR
amplification, data was analyzed using Perkin Elmer sequence
detection software. The fluorescent signal from each well
was normalized using an internal passive reference, and data
was fitted a standard curve to obtain relative quantities of

SNORF62 and SNORF72 expression.

Chromosomal localization of human SNORF62 and SNORF72
receptor genes

Chromosomal localization for human SNORF62 and SNORF72
receptor genes was established using a panel of radiation
hybrids prepared by the Stanford Human Genome Center (SHGC)
and distributed by Research Genetics, Inc. The Stanford G3
panel of 83 radiation hybrids was analyzed by PCR using the
same primers, probes and thermal cycler profiles as used for
localization. 20 ng of DNA was used in each PCR reaction.
Data was submitted to the RH Server (SHGC) which linked the
SNORF62 and SNORF72 gene sequences to specific markers.
NCBI LocusLink and NCBI GeneMap '99 were used to further
analyze the data.

RT-PCR

For the detection of RNA encoding rat SNORF72, RT-PCR was
carried out on mRNA extracted from tissue. Reverse
transcription and PCR reactions were carried out in a 50 µl
volumes using rTth DNA polymerase (Perkin Elmer). Primers
with the following sequences were used:

rat SNORF72:

Forward primer:

snorf72rseq.txt-392F

5'-GCCTGTGGGATGCTACTTCAAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 44)

Reverse primer

snorf72rseq.txt-471R

5'-CGCTAACCGTGGTGACACTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 45)

Fluorogenic oligonucleotide probe:

snorf72rseq.txt-422T

5' (6-FAM)-CTTCGAGACTGTGTGCTTTGCCTCCATTC-(TAMRA) 3' (SEQ ID NO:

46)

Using these primer pairs, amplicon length is 79 bp for rat SNORF72. Each RT-PCR reaction contained 100 ng total RNA. Oligonucleotide concentrations were: 500 nM of forward and reverse primers, and 200 nM of fluorogenic probe. Concentrations of reagents in each reaction were: 300 μ M each of dGTP; dATP; dCTP; 600 μ M UTP; 3.0mM Mn(OAc)₂ ; 50 mM Bicine; 115 mM potassium acetate, 8% glycerol, 5 units rTth DNA polymerase, and 0.5 units of uracil N-glycosylase. Buffer for RT-PCR reactions also contained a fluor used as a passive reference (ROX: Perkin Elmer proprietary passive reference I). All reagents for RT-PCR (except mRNA and oligonucleotide primers) were obtained from Perkin Elmer (Foster City, CA). Reactions were carried using the following thermal cycler profile: 50°C 2 min., 60°C 30 min., 95°C 5 min., followed by 40 cycles of: 94°C, 20 sec., 62°C 1 min.

Standard curves for quantitation of rat SNORF72 were constructed using genomic DNA. Negative controls consisted of mRNA blanks. To confirm that the mRNA was not contaminated with genomic DNA, PCR reactions were carried out without reverse transcription using Taq polymerase. Integrity of RNA was assessed by amplification of mRNA coding for cyclophilin or glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH). Following reverse transcription and PCR amplification, data was analyzed using Perkin Elmer sequence detection software. The fluorescent signal from each well was normalized using an internal passive reference, and data was fitted to a standard curve to obtain relative quantities of SNORF72 RNA expression.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Isolation of a full-length human SNORF62 receptor

A search of the SwissPlus database with a search set of known GPCRs yielded several orphan GPCR sequences. One sequence, O43664, was found to be most similar to the neurotensin receptor 1 (31% identity), as well as the recently identified motilin receptor, GPR38 (33% identity). O43664 was then chosen to be cloned for use in ligand-identification screens. In the process of verifying the 5' and 3' ends of the coding sequence for O43664 by RACE, an additional methionine was found upstream from the initiating methionine of O43664, which was in-frame with the rest of the sequence. This new receptor sequence would be 69 bp longer, potentially coding for a protein 23 amino acids longer than O43664. This new sequence was named SNORF62, and is represented in Figures 1A-1B and Figures 2A-2B. The SNORF62 cDNA codes for a protein of 426 amino acids (Figures 2A-2B). There are three potential N-linked glycosylation sites in the extracellular N-terminal domain at amino acid positions 7, 27, and 41. The C-terminal tail contains two potential casein kinase II phosphorylation sites at threonines 366 and 397, and one potential protein kinase C phosphorylation site at serine 360.

Isolation of the rat SNORF62a and rat SNORF62b receptors

A fragment of the rat homologue of SNORF62 was amplified from rat genomic DNA and rat testes cDNA by low stringency PCR using oligonucleotide primers designed against the mouse SNORF62 (GenEMBL Accession Number AF044602). This fragment contains 667 nucleotides of rat SNORF62, from the end of TM1 to the beginning of TM6.

To obtain the full-length rat SNORF62, 5' RACE was performed on rat spleen and rat testes, and 3' RACE was performed on rat spleen. The 5' RACE reaction yielded 400 and 800 bp bands that

contained sequence information through the first transmembrane domain to the amino terminus, but had no putative in-frame initiating methionine-coding sequence. A second 5' RACE reaction yielded 300 bp band from rat testes cDNA that contained sequence information through the first transmembrane domain and a putative in-frame initiating methionine-coding sequence. Another band of 700 bp from rat spleen cDNA yielded a different sequence containing sequence information through the first transmembrane domain and a putative in-frame initiating methionine-coding sequence. The 3' RACE reaction yielded a 1000 bp band that contained sequence for an in-frame stop codon downstream from the region coding for the seventh transmembrane domain.

Two full-length receptor sequences were identified and named SNORF62a (from rat testes) and SNORF62b (from rat spleen). These sequences are identical except for the first two amino acids of SNORF62a and the first 28 amino acids of SNORF62b. The largest open reading frame is 1239 and 1317 nucleotides (Figures 17A-B and 19A-B), and predicts a protein of 413 and 439 amino acids (Figures 18A-B and 20A-B) for rat SNORF62a and rat SNORF62b, respectively. A comparison of the rat SNORF62a and rat SNORF62b sequences with the human SNORF62 sequence reveals 76.5% and 75% nucleotide identities and 71% and 69.5% amino acid identities, respectively. An amino acid alignment of the sequences of SNORF62 is shown in Figures 21A-21C. Hydrophobicity (Kyte-Doolittle) analysis of the amino acid sequence of the full length clones indicates the presence of seven hydrophobic regions, which is consistent with the seven transmembrane domains of a G protein coupled receptor (Figures 18A-B and 20A-B).

Isolation of a full-length human SNORF72 receptor

A receptor sequence that was 46% identical to SNORF62 was found in the public domain, and subsequently named SNORF72. After

cloning the full-length receptor from human whole-brain cDNA by PCR, the actual sequence of SNORF72 was found to be slightly different from the published clone. Five nucleotide differences were discovered between this new SNORF72 sequence and the corresponding published sequence, four of which changed the amino acid sequence of the receptor. The new clone in the pEXJ.T3T7 expression vector was named pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f. The nucleotide sequence of SNORF72 is shown in Figure 3A-3B, and the predicted amino acid sequence of the receptor encoded by SNORF72 is shown in Figure 4A-4B. A GAP comparison of the amino acid sequences (Wisconsin Package version 10.0, Genetics Computer Group, Madison, WI) of SNORF72 with SNORF62 indicates that there is a 47% amino acid identity between the two receptors (Figure 5), suggesting that they are likely to be members of the same receptor subfamily.

Isolation of a full-length rat SNORF72 receptor

Sequencing of the cDNA insert shows a long open reading frame containing the full 1185 base pair coding region, corresponding to a predicted protein of 395 amino acids. Hydrophobicity analysis reveals the seven predicted transmembrane domains typical of G protein-coupled receptors. Sequence comparison with the predicted human SNORF72 coding region reveals 81% identity at the nucleotide level and 79% identity at the amino acid level. The rat SNORF72 N-terminus has a 5 amino acid deletion compared with human SNORF72 and contains an additional downstream methionine not present in human SNORF72 (Figures 16A-16B). Conversely, the human SNORF72 N-terminus contains an additional upstream methionine (Figures 16A-16B) not found in rat SNORF72. The C-terminus of rat SNORF72 also differs from human SNORF72 in that it is shorter by 12 amino acids (Figures 16A-16B). Rat and human SNORF72 were also compared with human SNORF62 (Figures 16A-16B). Rat and human SNORF72 show 47-49% amino acid identity with human SNORF62, a typical level of homology for receptor subtypes activated by the same

ligand. This construct of rat SNORF72 was named pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f.

Increase in intracellular Ca^{2+} release

COS-7 cells were transiently transfected with SNORF62, SNORF72 or vector DNA (mock) as described in Materials and Methods. Application of human NMU-25 resulted in concentration-dependent release of intracellular Ca^{2+} (as measured by FLIPR™) in COS-7 cells transfected with SNORF62 or SNORF72 (Figures 6 and 7). In contrast, human NMU-25 had no significant effect on intracellular Ca^{2+} release in vector-transfected cells (Figure 6). The EC50 values obtained for the stimulation of SNORF62 and SNORF72 by NMU and related peptides are listed in Table 1 and Table 1A.

SNORF72-transfected COS-7 cells were also stimulated by rat NMU-23, NMU-8 and human NMU-25 (Figure 8). All of the peptides that activated SNORF62 and SNORF72 produced similar maximum responses and were therefore full agonists (data not shown).

The high potency of NMU-induced stimulation of SNORF62 and SNORF72 provides support for classifying these receptors as NMU receptors. For comparison, in isolated rat uterus preparations the EC50 concentration for contraction by rat NMU-23 is 0.2 nM (Domin et al. 1989). The slightly lower potency of rat NMU-23 observed in the SNORF62- and SNORF72- transfected COS-7 cells (average EC50 = 2.1 nM for SNORF62 and 1.7, 5.1 nM; n=2, for SNORF72) may be due to species differences in the peptides and/or receptors as well as the artificial cell hosts.

NMU-8 and rat NMU-23 produced robust increases in intracellular Ca^{2+} (as measured by FLIPR™) in COS-7 cells transiently transfected with rat SNORF72 (Figure 22). The responses were dose dependent reaching maximal stimulation at concentrations

below 100 nM. Thus, rat SNORF72 is a functional receptor for NMU.

TABLE 1

5 Potency of NMU and related peptides for stimulation of Ca^{++} release in SNORF62-transfected COS-7 cells.

peptide	AVG EC50 (nM)	n	sem
human NMU-25	4.0	7	1.3
porcine NMU-25	5.2	4	0.8
rat NMU-23	2.1	3	0.5
porcine NMU-8	1.1	4	0.4

TABLE 1A

Potency of NMU and related peptides for stimulation of Ca^{2+} release and binding affinities were determined in SNORF62 and SNORF72-transfected COS-7 cells (n=2-7). "N.D." = not determined.

	SNORF62		SNORF72	
	Avg EC50 (nM)	Avg Ki (nM)	Avg EC50 (nM)	Avg Ki (nM)
human NMU-25	4.0 ± 1.3	2.0 ± 0.4	2.4 ± 0.6	3.0 ± 0
porcine NMU-25	5.2 ± 0.8	1.1 ± 0.2	3.0 ± 0.7	1.8 ± 0.6
rat NMU-23	2.1 ± 0.5	0.5 ± 0.2	5.0 ± 1.7	0.5 ± 0.6
porcine NMU-8	1.1 ± 0.4	3.0 ± 1.3	1.2 ± 0.3	1.2 ± 0.3
frog PP*	N.D.	> 10 μM	N.D.	> 10 μM
rat PP	N.D.	> 10 μM	N.D.	> 10 μM
VIP†	N.D.	> 10 μM	N.D.	> 10 μM

* pancreatic polypeptide

+ vasoactive intestinal peptide

Radioligand binding

Receptor binding was performed on SNORF62-, SNORF72- and mock-transfected COS-7 membranes using [^{125}I]rat NMU-23 and [^{125}I]NMU-8 as radioligands as described in the Methods.

Binding of [^{125}I]rat NMU-23 and [^{125}I]NMU-8 to the SNORF62 and SNORF72 membranes was time dependent (reaching equilibrium by 30 min, data not shown) and saturable (Figures 9A-9B and 11A-11B). No saturable, specific binding sites for either radioligand were present in the mock-transfected COS-7 cell membranes (data not shown).

In membranes from SNORF62-transfected COS-7 cells [^{125}I]rat NMU-23 and [^{125}I]NMU-8 bound with high affinity (K_d = 0.61, 0.72 nM and K_d = 1.2, 2.8 nM, respectively; n=2). See Figures 9A and 9B, respectively. [^{125}I]NMU-8 identified 3-fold fewer sites than did [^{125}I]rat NMU-23 (B_{max} = 3.8, 3.4 pmol/mg protein and B_{max} = 16.5, 9.9 pmol/mg protein, respectively; n=2) even

though NMU-8 and rat NMU-23 are both full agonists in the functional assay (data not shown). This may be due to technical limitations in reaching high enough concentrations of [125 I]NMU-8 to fully saturate the binding sites, since it demonstrates somewhat lower affinity than [125 I]rat NMU-23 (See Table 1). Non-specific binding represented approximately 6% and 30% of total binding for [125 I]rat NMU-23 and [125 I]NMU-8, respectively.

In SNORF72-transfected COS-7 membranes, Kd values determined from saturation binding were 0.81, 0.96 nM (n=2) for [125 I]rat NMU-23 and Kd = 0.83, 0.82 (n=2) for [125 I]NMU-8. See Figures 11A and 11B, respectively. Non-specific binding represented approximately 15% and approximately 35% of total binding for [125 I]rat NMU-23 and [125 I]NMU-8, respectively. Both radioligands identified similar numbers of sites in SNORF72-transfected membranes (Bmax = 8.0, 8.2 pmol/mg protein for [125 I]rat NMU-23 and Bmax = 6.9, 5.5 pmol/mg protein for [125 I]NMU-8; n=2). Interestingly, although the maximum Ca²⁺ signal generated by human NMU-25 was higher in SNORF72-transfected cells than in SNORF62-transfected cells (Figures 7 and 8 vs Figure 6), the levels of receptor expression were similar (based on Bmax values discussed above). This observation suggests more efficient coupling of SNORF72 to Ca²⁺ releasing signal transduction mechanisms in the COS-7 cells.

Displacement of [125 I]rat NMU-23 binding allowed the estimation of binding affinity of a number of peptides (Figures 10, 12 and Table 2). The binding affinity of rat NMU-23 (average pKi = 9.4) in SNORF62 membranes was somewhat greater than NMU-8 (average pKi = 8.5), consistent with the binding affinities determined for the radioiodinated peptides. However, in SNORF72 membranes the apparent binding affinities of rat NMU-23 and NMU-8 were similar (average pKi = 9.0 and 8.9, respectively).

The high affinity binding of [¹²⁵I]rat NMU-23 at SNORF62 and SNORF72 in COS-7 cell membranes is similar to the K_d determined for this radioligand in isolated rat uterus (K_d = 0.35 nM, Nandha et al. 1993). This affinity corresponds to the EC₅₀ of contractile activity in this tissue, 0.2nM, similar to the involvement of the binding site in NMU-induced uterine contraction. The binding site in this tissue demonstrated lower affinity for NMU-8 than for rat NMU-23 with average IC₅₀ values of 60 nM and 1 nM, respectively.

Although rat PP, frog PP and vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) share minor homology with NMU (see Background), these peptides did not displace binding of [¹²⁵I]rat NMU-23 bound in either SNORF62 or SNORF72 membranes (Table 2) or activate the receptors in transfected COS-7 cells (data not shown).

TABLE 2

Binding pK_i values determined from displacement of [¹²⁵I]rat NMU-23 (0.05 - 0.1 nM) binding in membranes prepared from SNORF62- or SNORF72- transfected COS-7 cells. n=2, N.D. = not determined.

<u>Compound</u>	<u>SNORF62</u>		<u>SNORF72</u>	
	<u>Avg pK_i</u>	<u>STDev pK_i</u>	<u>Avg pK_i</u>	<u>STDev pK_i</u>
human NMU-25	8.7	0.1	8.5	0.1
porcine NMU-25	9.0	0.1	8.7	0.1
rat NMU-23	9.4	0.2	9.0	0.6
NMU-8	8.5	0.2	8.9	0.1
frog PP	<5	<5	<5	<5
rat PP	<5	<5	<5	<5
VIP	<5	<5	<5	<5

Inositol phosphate (IP) release

Exposure of SNORF62-transfected COS-7 cells (but not mock-transfected cells) to human NMU-25 caused the dose-dependent release of IP second messengers (approximately 2-fold above basal) with an EC50 of 0.25 ± 0.09 nM (Figure 23). Rat NMU-23 and porcine NMU-8 were also full agonists in this assay with an EC50 = 0.23 ± 0.10 nM and 0.23 ± 0.06 nM, respectively (n=3). The EC50 values measured for IP release are lower than the EC50 values measured for increases in intracellular Ca^{2+} (see Table 1 and Table 1A). This may be due to differences in experimental conditions between the two types of assays including the non-equilibrium nature of Ca^{2+} measurements.

In addition, the Ca^{2+} release response to human NMU-25 was present in SNORF62-transfected cells following pretreatment with pertussis toxin (100 ng/ml for 18-20 hours, n=2) indicating that the Ca^{2+} signal is not predominantly generated by G-proteins of the Gi/Go family (data not shown). Taken together these results indicate that SNORF62 couples to phospholipase C stimulation via a Gq-type G-protein in COS-7 cells.

Activation of calcium-activated Cl^- currents in human SNORF62-expressing *Xenopus* oocytes

In *Xenopus laevis* oocytes injected with SNORF62 mRNA human NMU-25 elicited oscillatory Cl^- currents through G protein-coupled stimulation of the phosphoinositide/ Ca^{2+} second messenger system, which in turn leads to the activation of a Ca^{2+} -dependent Cl^- current. As shown in Figure 13, control oocytes, lacking injection of foreign mRNA, typically showed no response to human NMU-25 (n=5). However, in oocytes injected with SNORF62 mRNA, the current amplitude averaged 1065 ± 211 nA (n=3) in response to 1 μM human NMU-25. Porcine NMU-25 (1 μM) also elicited a strong response (2150 ± 330 nA (n=3)) from oocytes injected with SNORF62 mRNA, but not in control oocytes (data not shown).

Detection of RNA coding for human SNORF62

RNA was isolated from multiple tissues (listed in Table 3) and assayed as described. Quantitative RT-PCR using a fluorogenic probe demonstrated RNA encoding human SNORF62 to be localized in highest abundance in peripheral organs, particularly in elements of the urogenital and gastrointestinal systems.

The highest levels are found in the testes. The uterus, prostate and kidney (both cortex and medulla) express SNORF62 RNA. This is consistent with functional studies and localization of NMU that are found in uterus and prostate (see Background). However, NMU has not been localized to the kidney and its function there is not known. However, the presence in the kidney may be associated with NMU's effects at increasing arterial blood pressure (in rats, Minamino et al., 1985b).

The gastrointestinal system also has considerable amounts of SNORF62 RNA. The stomach, small intestine (pooled) as well as the duodenum express SNORF62 RNA. This is consistent with the high levels of NMU in the GI tract found by radioimmunoassay (RIA) (Domin et al. 1987) in both myenteric and submucosal plexuses of the gut (Ballesta et al. 1988) and the postulated role of NMU as a potent constrictor of smooth muscle. SNORF62 RNA is also present in the pancreas at levels equivalent to that seen in other regions of the GI tract, but the role of the receptor in this tissue is not clear. It is not known if the SNORF62 receptors are found on the pancreatic islets, acinar cells or are present on vasculature within the gland. Sumi et al. (1987) demonstrated an increase in blood flow in the pancreas after administration of NMU suggesting a vascular localization or function.

Other tissues expressing SNORF62 RNA include the lung, trachea, adrenal gland, and mammary gland, with lower levels in skeletal muscle, and heart. This broad distribution implies a broad

regulatory or modulatory activity, perhaps at the level of smooth muscle contraction or secretagogue actions within these tissues. As discussed in the Background, NMU directly affects cells of the adrenal gland to alter secretion and may therefore act as a secretagogue in other tissues as well.

CNS structures express SNORF62 RNA but at levels much lower than those seen in peripheral organs. Within the CNS, SNORF62 RNA has been detected in highest abundance in the cerebellum, dorsal root ganglia, hippocampus and spinal cord. NMU-like immunoreactivity was identified in each of these regions (Domin et al. 1987). Within the CNS, it is found in levels that are 5 to 25-fold less than that found in peripheral organs. The role of SNORF62 RNA in the CNS is not clear, however its broad distribution is consistent with the broad distribution of NMU found in the brain (Domin et al. 1987). The presence of NMU as well as SNORF62 RNA in the spinal cord, dorsal root ganglia, and medulla oblongata implies a role in sensory transmission or modulation.

In summary, SNORF62 RNA is broadly distributed, with highest concentrations in gastrointestinal and urogenital systems. Levels within the CNS are fairly low. This distribution implies regulation/modulation of multiple systems. Some of the effects of the peripheral actions of SNORF62 may be mediated by the actions of NMU on smooth muscle, and its CNS distribution suggests a role in the modulation of sensory transmission.

Detection of RNA coding for human SNORF72

RNA was isolated from multiple tissues (listed in Table 3) and assayed as described. Quantitative RT-PCR using a fluorogenic probe demonstrated RNA encoding human SNORF72 to be localized in highest abundance in the CNS. The CNS regions expressing the highest levels of SNORF72 RNA include the medulla

oblongata, pontine reticular formation, spinal cord, and thalamus (Table 3). This distribution is highly suggestive of a role in sensory transmission or modulation and is in sharp contrast to the pattern seen with SNORF62, which has a distribution primarily in peripheral organs. The exception to this CNS/peripheral organ pattern are the testes, which express high levels of both SNORF62 and SNORF72 RNA.

The hippocampus, hypothalamus and cerebral cortex all express moderate-high levels of SNORF72 RNA. Other CNS structures expressing SNORF72 RNA include the amygdala and cerebellum. Dorsal root ganglia also express SNORF72 RNA albeit at substantially lower levels than those found in the spinal cord, but comparable to those found in the amygdala and cerebellum.

The expression pattern of SNORF72 RNA in the CNS is consistent with the hypothesis that its ligand, NMU, is a sensory transmitter/modulator. NMU is found in the spinal cord, dorsal root ganglia, and medulla oblongata using radioimmunoassay (Domin et al. 1987) and immunohistochemistry (Ballesta et al. 1988). Its presence in other regions including hippocampus, hypothalamus and cerebral cortex implies a modulatory role in multiple systems within the CNS.

Peripheral organs expressing SNORF72 RNA include the kidney (medulla), lung and trachea. The function of SNORF72 in the kidney may be different from SNORF62 despite the fact that NMU is possibly an endogenous ligand for both. SNORF62 RNA is found in equivalent amounts in both the cortex and medulla of the kidney. SNORF72 RNA is found primarily in the medulla, suggesting different physiological functions for these two receptors in the kidney. It is not known at this time which cells in the kidney express SNORF62 and/or SNORF72 RNA. The broad distribution in multiple peripheral organs (Table 3) implies a broad regulatory or modulatory activity, perhaps at

5

In summary, SNORF72 RNA is expressed in highest abundance in the CNS, particularly in structures associated with sensory transmission/or modulation. This localization suggests a role for SNORF72 in the central actions of NMU whereas the localization of SNORF62 RNA suggest a role for SNORF62 in the peripheral actions of this peptide.

TABLE 3

Summary of distribution of mRNA coding for human SNORF62 and human SNORF72.

Data is expressed as % of the highest expressing tissue.

Region	snorf62 % of maximum	snorf72 % of maximum	Potential applications
adipose tissue	<1	not detected	Obesity and metabolic disorders
adrenal gland	31.65	< 1	Regulation of metabolic steroids, disorders of the adrenal gland, regulation of epinephrine release
amygdala	5.90	9.58	Depression, phobias, anxiety, mood disorders
cerebellum	21.52	6.25	Motor coordination disorders
cerebral cortex	8.42	20.28	Cognition, sensory and motor integration disorders
dorsal root ganglia	14.68	9.33	Sensory transmission disorders, pain
duodenum	26.96	trace	Gastrointestinal disorders
heart	12.66	2.63	Cardiovascular disorders
hippocampus	13.92	43.61	Cognition/memory disorders
hypothalamus	10.13	40.58	Appetite/obesity, neuroendocrine regulation disorders
kidney, cortex	47.00	1.03	Hypertension, electrolyte balance disorders
kidney, medulla	33.33	16.42	Hypertension, electrolyte balance disorders
liver	not detected	not detected	Metabolic disorders
lung	48.86	17.08	Respiratory disorders, asthma
mammary gland	20.25	1.46	Lactation disorders

medulla oblongata	7.27	100	Sensory transmission/ integration disorders, pain, cardiovascular disorders, respiratory disorders,
pancreas	45.70	trace	Endocrine disorders, diabetes, pancreatitis
pituitary	3.44	< 1	Endocrine/neuroendocrine disorders
pontine reticular formation	3.61	92.50	Sleep disorders, sensory modulation and transmission disorders
prostate gland	27.09	1.79	Benign prostatic hyperplasia and male sexual dysfunction
salivary gland	2.84	not detected	Digestive disorders
skeletal muscle	13.67	< 1	Musculoskeletal disorders
small intestine	73.80	1.74	Gastrointestinal disorders
spinal cord	13.16	80.00	Analgesia, sensory modulation and transmission disorders, pain
spleen	1.25	not detected	Immune disorders
stomach	39.62	5.58	Gastrointestinal disorders
testes	100.00	85.00	Male reproductive disorders, regulation of steroid hormones
thalamus	7.48	47.83	Sensory integration disorders, pain
trachea	27.85	8.92	Respiratory disorders, asthma
uterus	34.43	4.20	Gestational disorders, dysmenorrhea, female sexual dysfunction

The identification of SNORF62 and SNORF72 as members of the family of NMU receptors is supported by a variety of experimental results. Both receptors are activated by full length NMU (rat, porcine and human) as well as NMU-8. In membranes prepared from SNORF62- or SNORF72-transfected cells,

[¹²⁵I]rat NMU-23 and [¹²⁵I]NMU-8 bind with high affinity. Human NMU-25 also demonstrates activation of SNORF62 expressed in *Xenopus* oocytes. Taken together these results indicate that SNORF62 and SNORF72 are functional NMU receptors. Differential localization of SNORF62 RNA predominantly to the periphery and SNORF72 RNA predominantly to the CNS suggest different roles for these receptors *in vivo*.

Chromosomal localization of human SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptor genes

The human SNORF62 gene maps to SHGC-33253 which is localized to chromosome 2q34-q37. SNORF 72 maps to SHGC-8848, which is localized to chromosome 5q31.1-q31.3.

Detection of RNA coding for rat SNORF 72: mRNA was isolated from multiple tissues and assayed as described (See Table 4).

Quantitative RT-PCR using a fluorogenic probe demonstrated mRNA coding for rat SNORF72 to be localized in highest abundance in the ovary and uterus. This is consistent with functional studies and localization of neuromedin U. Neuromedin U has been localized to the uterus (Domin, et al., 1987) and it has been shown to potently contract uterine smooth muscle (Minamino, et al., 1985a and 1985b).

The stomach and the duodenum also express SNORF72 RNA. As described previously, this is consistent with the high levels of NMU in the GI tract found by radioimmunoassay (RIA) (Domin, et al., 1987). SNORF72 RNA is also expressed in substantial amounts in the urinary bladder. Taken together, this localization is consistent with the postulated role of NMU as

a potent constrictor of smooth muscle. This distribution contrasts sharply with the distribution of human SNORF72 which is expressed in highest abundance in the CNS.

5 In the rat CNS highest levels of SNORF72 are expressed in the spinal cord and medulla oblongata. In the human, these also express high levels of SNORF72. The presence of SNORF72 RNA in the medulla and spinal cord is suggestive of a role in sensory transmission of modulation.

The rat hippocampus, hypothalamus and cerebral cortex all express SNORF72. Its presence in multiple, diverse structures implies broad modulatory role in multiple systems within the CNS.

In summary, rat SNORF72 is expressed in the uterus and the ovaries. This receptor may be responsible for modulating uterine contraction by NMU. Within the CNS, it has a broad distribution and may be responsible for modulating many of the central actions of NMU.

Table 4

Summary of distribution of mRNA coding for rat SNORF72 receptors

5 RNA encoding SNORF72r is expressed as % of highest expressing tissue: uterus

Tissue	qRT-PCR	Potential applications
	% of max	
adipose	1.26	metabolic disorders
10 adrenal cortex	trace	regulation of steroid hormones
adrenal medulla	trace	regulation of epinephrine release
cerebellum	0.81	motor coordination
cerebral cortex	3.39	Sensory and motor integration, cognition
dorsal root ganglia	2.72	sensory transmission
15 duodenum	4.33	gastrointestinal disorders
heart	0.14	cardiovascular indications
hippocampus	4.27	cognition/memory
hypothalamus	13.14	appetite/obesity, neuroendocrine regulation
kidney	0.07	electrolyte balance, hypertension
20 liver	0.08	diabetes
lung	4.84	respiratory disorders, asthma
medulla oblongata	5.07	analgesia, motor coordination
ovary	78.50	reproductive function
pancreas	1.44	diabetes, endocrine disorders
25 pituitary	trace	endocrine/neuroendocrine regulation

skeletal muscle	0.28	musculoskeletal disorders
spinal cord	20.70	analgesia, sensory modulation and transmission
spleen	trace	immune disorders
stomach	3.86	gastrointestinal disorders
testes	2.64	reproductive function
urinary bladder	5.96	urinary incontinence
uterus	100.00	gestational and reproductive disorders
vas deferens	0.79	reproductive function

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What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor.
2. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor.
3. The nucleic acid of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.
4. The DNA of claim 3, wherein the DNA is cDNA.
5. The DNA of claim 3, wherein the DNA is genomic DNA.
6. The nucleic acid of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid is RNA.
7. The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor.
8. The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.
9. The nucleic acid of claim 7, wherein the human SNORF62 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042).
10. The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein the human SNORF72 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).
11. The nucleic acid of claim 7, wherein the human SNORF62

receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 2A-2B (SEQ ID NO: 2).

5 12. The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein the human SNORF72 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 4A-4B (SEQ ID NO: 4).

10 13. The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor.

14. The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein the rat SNORF72 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927).

15 15. The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein the rat SNORF72 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 15A-15B (SEQ ID NO: 25).

20 16. The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a rat SNORF62a receptor having an amino acid sequence identical to the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 18A-18B (SEQ ID NO: 27).

25 17. The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a rat SNORF62b receptor having an amino acid sequence identical to the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 20A-20B (SEQ ID NO: 29).

30 18. A purified mammalian SNORF62 receptor protein.

35 19. A purified mammalian SNORF72 receptor protein.

20. The purified mammalian SNORF62 receptor protein of claim 18, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor protein is a human SNORF62 receptor protein.
- 5 21. The purified mammalian SNORF72 receptor protein of claim 19, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor protein is a human SNORF72 receptor protein or a rat SNORF72 receptor protein.
- 10 22. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 or claim 7.
23. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 2 or claim 8.
- 15 24. A vector of claim 22 or 23 adapted for expression in a cell which comprises the regulatory elements necessary for expression of the nucleic acid in the cell operatively linked to the nucleic acid encoding the receptor so as to permit expression thereof, wherein the cell is a bacterial, amphibian, yeast, insect or mammalian cell.
- 20 25. The vector of claim 24, wherein the vector is a baculovirus.
- 25 26. The vector of claim 22 or 23, wherein the vector is a plasmid.
- 30 27. The plasmid of claim 26 designated pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1042).
28. The plasmid of claim 26 designated pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).

29. The plasmid of claim 26 designated pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f
(Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927).
30. A cell comprising the vector of claim 24.
31. A cell of claim 30, wherein the cell is a non-mammalian
cell.
32. A cell of claim 31, wherein the non-mammalian cell is a
Xenopus oocyte cell or a *Xenopus* melanophore cell.
33. A cell of claim 30, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.
34. A mammalian cell of claim 33, wherein the cell is a COS-7
cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a NIH-3T3 cell,
a LM(tk-) cell, a mouse Y1 cell, or a CHO cell.
35. A cell of claim 30, wherein the cell is an insect cell.
36. An insect cell of claim 35, wherein the insect cell is an
Sf9 cell, an Sf21 cell or a *Trichoplusia ni* 5B-4 cell.
37. A membrane preparation isolated from the cell of any one
of claims 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 or 36.
38. A nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides,
which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid
encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein the probe
has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present
within one of the two strands of the nucleic acid
encoding the human SNORF62 receptor contained in plasmid
pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-
1042).
39. A nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides,

which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within one of the two strands of the nucleic acid encoding the human SNORF72 receptor contained in plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).

40. A nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within one of the two strands of the nucleic acid encoding the rat SNORF72 receptor contained in plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927).
41. A nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within (a) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 1A-1B (SEQ ID NO: 1) or (b) the reverse complement thereof.
42. A nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present within (a) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 3A-3B (SEQ ID NO: 3) or (b) the reverse complement thereof.
43. A nucleic acid probe comprising at least 15 nucleotides, which probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein the probe has a sequence complementary to a unique sequence present

within (a) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figures 15A-15B (SEQ ID NO: 25) or (b) the reverse complement thereof.

- 5 44. The nucleic acid probe of claim 41, 42 or 43, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.
- 10 45. The nucleic acid probe of claim 41, 42 or 43, wherein the nucleic acid is RNA.
- 15 46. An antisense oligonucleotide having a sequence capable of specifically hybridizing to the RNA of claim 6, so as to prevent translation of the RNA.
- 20 47. An antisense oligonucleotide having a sequence capable of specifically hybridizing to the genomic DNA of claim 5, so as to prevent transcription of the genomic DNA.
- 25 48. An antisense oligonucleotide of claim 46 or 47, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises chemically modified nucleotides or nucleotide analogues.
- 30 49. An antibody capable of binding to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.
- 35 50. An antibody capable of binding to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 2.
51. An antibody of claim 49, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor.
52. An antibody of claim 50, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

53. An agent capable of competitively inhibiting the binding of the antibody of claim 49 to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

5 54. An agent capable of competitively inhibiting the binding of the antibody of claim 50 to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

10 55. An antibody of claim 53 or 54, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or antisera.

15 56. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (a) an amount of the oligonucleotide of claim 46 capable of passing through a cell membrane and effective to reduce expression of a mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor and (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier capable of passing through the cell membrane.

20 57. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 56, wherein the oligonucleotide is coupled to a substance which inactivates mRNA.

25 58. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 57, wherein the substance which inactivates mRNA is a ribozyme.

30 59. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 57, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises a structure which binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor or a mammalian SNORF72 receptor on a cell capable of being taken up by the cells after binding to the structure.

35 60. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 59, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is capable of binding to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor or a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which is specific for a selected cell type.

61. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an amount of the antibody of claim 49 effective to block binding of a ligand to a human SNORF62 receptor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
62. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an amount of the antibody of claim 50 effective to block binding of a ligand to a human SNORF72 receptor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
63. A transgenic, nonhuman mammal expressing DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor of claim 1.
64. A transgenic, nonhuman mammal expressing DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor of claim 2.
65. A transgenic, nonhuman mammal comprising a homologous recombination knockout of the native mammalian SNORF62 receptor.
66. A transgenic, nonhuman mammal comprising a homologous recombination knockout of the native mammalian SNORF72 receptor.
67. A transgenic, nonhuman mammal whose genome comprises antisense DNA complementary to the DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor of claim 1 so placed within the genome as to be transcribed into antisense mRNA which is complementary to and hybridizes with mRNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 receptor so as to thereby reduce translation of such mRNA and expression of such receptor.
68. A transgenic, nonhuman mammal whose genome comprises antisense DNA complementary to the DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor of claim 2 so placed within

the genome as to be transcribed into antisense mRNA which is complementary to and hybridizes with mRNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor so as to thereby reduce translation of such mRNA and expression of such receptor.

- 5
69. The transgenic, nonhuman mammal of claim 63, 64, 65 or 66, wherein the DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor additionally comprises an inducible promoter.
- 10
70. The transgenic, nonhuman mammal of claim 63, 64, 65 or 66, wherein the DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 or SNORF72 receptor additionally comprises tissue specific regulatory elements.
- 15
71. A transgenic, nonhuman mammal of claim 63, 64, 65 or 66, wherein the transgenic, nonhuman mammal is a mouse.
- 20
72. A process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises contacting cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.
- 25
73. A process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises contacting a membrane preparation from cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for
- 30
- 35

binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

- 5 74. A process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises contacting cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.
- 10
- 15 75. A process for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises contacting a membrane preparation from cells containing DNA encoding, and expressing on their cell surface, the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with the compound under conditions suitable for binding, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.
- 20
- 25 76. The process of claim 72 or 73, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.
- 30 77. The process of claim 74 or 75, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.
- 35 78. The process of claim 72 or 73, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor has substantially the same amino acid sequence as the human SNORF62 receptor encoded by plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF62-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-

1042).

- 5 79. The process of claim 74 or 75, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor has substantially the same amino acid sequence as the human SNORF72 receptor encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).
- 10 80. The process of claim 72 or 73, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor has substantially the same amino acid sequence as that shown in Figures 2A-2B (SEQ ID NO: 2).
- 15 81. The process of claim 74 or 75, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor has substantially the same amino acid sequence as that shown in Figures 4A-4B (SEQ ID NO: 4).
- 20 82. The process of claim 72 or 73, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor has the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 2A-2B (SEQ ID NO: 2).
- 25 83. The process of claim 74 or 75, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor has the amino acid sequence shown in Figures 4A-4B (SEQ ID NO: 4).
- 30 84. The process of claim 72 or 73, wherein the compound is not previously known to bind to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor.
85. The process of claim 74 or 75, wherein the compound is not previously known to bind to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor.
86. A compound identified by the process of claim 84 or 85.
- 35 87. A process of claim 72, 73, 74 or 75, wherein the cell is

an insect cell.

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88. The process of claim 72, 73, 74 or 75, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.
89. The process of claim 88, wherein the cell is nonneuronal in origin.
- 10 90. The process of claim 89, wherein the nonneuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a CHO cell, a NIH-3T3 cell, a mouse Y1 cell, or a LM(tk-) cell.
- 15 91. A process of claim 88, wherein the compound is a compound not previously known to bind to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor or a mammalian SNORF72 receptor.
- 20 92. A compound identified by the process of claim 91.
- 25 93. A process involving competitive binding for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian NMU receptor which comprises separately contacting cells expressing on their cell surface the mammalian NMU receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian NMU receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to bind to the receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for binding of such compounds to the receptor, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor, a decrease in the binding of the second chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor in the presence of the chemical compound being tested indicating that such chemical compound binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.
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94. A process involving competitive binding for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian NMU receptor which comprises separately contacting a membrane preparation from cells expressing on their cell surface the mammalian NMU receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian NMU receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to bind to the receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for binding of such compounds to the receptor, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor, a decrease in the binding of the second chemical compound to the mammalian NMU receptor in the presence of the chemical compound being tested indicating that such chemical compound binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.

95. A process of claim 93 or 94, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

96. A process of claim 93 or 94, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

97. The process of claim 93 or 94, wherein the cell is an insect cell.

98. The process of claim 93 or 94, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

99. The process of claim 98, wherein the cell is nonneuronal in origin.

100. The process of claim 99, wherein the nonneuronal cell is

a COS-7 cell, 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a CHO cell, a NIH-3T3 cell, a mouse Y1 cell, or a LM(tk-) cell.

101. The process of claim 100, wherein the compound is not previously known to bind to a mammalian NMU receptor.

102. A compound identified by the process of claim 101.

103. A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to bind to a mammalian NMU receptor to identify a compound which specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor, which comprises

(a) contacting cells transfected with, and expressing, DNA encoding the mammalian NMU receptor with a compound known to bind specifically to the mammalian NMU receptor;

(b) contacting the cells of step (a) with the plurality of compounds not known to bind specifically to the mammalian NMU receptor, under conditions permitting binding of compounds known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor;

(c) determining whether the binding of the compound known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor is reduced in the presence of the plurality of compounds, relative to the binding of the compound in the absence of the plurality of compounds; and if so

(d) separately determining the binding to the mammalian NMU receptor of each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included therein which specifically

binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.

104. A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to bind to a mammalian NMU receptor to identify a compound which specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor, which comprises

(a) contacting a membrane preparation from cells transfected with, and expressing, DNA encoding the mammalian NMU receptor with the plurality of compounds not known to bind specifically to the mammalian NMU receptor under conditions permitting binding of compounds known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor;

(b) determining whether the binding of a compound known to bind to the mammalian NMU receptor is reduced in the presence of the plurality of compounds, relative to the binding of the compound in the absence of the plurality of compounds; and if so

(c) separately determining the binding to the mammalian NMU receptor of each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included therein which specifically binds to the mammalian NMU receptor.

105. A method of claim 103 or 104, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

106. A method of claim 103 or 104, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

107. A method of claim 103 or 104, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

108. A method of claim 107, wherein the mammalian cell is non-neuronal in origin.

109. The method of claim 108, wherein the non-neuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a LM(tk-) cell, a CHO cell, a mouse Y1 cell, or an NIH-3T3 cell.

110. A method of detecting expression of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor by detecting the presence of mRNA coding for the mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises obtaining total mRNA from the cell and contacting the mRNA so obtained with the nucleic acid probe of claim 38 or 41 under hybridizing conditions, detecting the presence of mRNA hybridized to the probe, and thereby detecting the expression of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor by the cell.

111. A method of detecting expression of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor by detecting the presence of mRNA coding for the mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises obtaining total mRNA from the cell and contacting the mRNA so obtained with the nucleic acid probe of claim 39 or 42 under hybridizing conditions, detecting the presence of mRNA hybridized to the probe, and thereby detecting the expression of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor by the cell.

112. A method of detecting the presence of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor on the surface of a cell which comprises contacting the cell with the antibody of claim 49 under conditions permitting binding of the antibody to the receptor, detecting the presence of the antibody bound to the cell, and thereby detecting the presence of the

mammalian SNORF62 receptor on the surface of the cell.

5 113. A method of detecting the presence of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor on the surface of a cell which comprises contacting the cell with the antibody of claim 50 under conditions permitting binding of the antibody to the receptor, detecting the presence of the antibody bound to the cell, and thereby detecting the presence of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor on the surface of the cell.

10 114. A method of determining the physiological effects of varying levels of activity of mammalian SNORF62 receptors which comprises producing a transgenic, nonhuman mammal of claim 63 whose levels of mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity are varied by use of an inducible promoter which regulates mammalian SNORF62 receptor expression.

15 115. A method of determining the physiological effects of varying levels of activity of mammalian SNORF72 receptors which comprises producing a transgenic, nonhuman mammal of claim 64 whose levels of mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity are varied by use of an inducible promoter which regulates mammalian SNORF72 receptor expression.

20 116. A method of determining the physiological effects of varying levels of activity of mammalian SNORF62 receptors which comprises producing a panel of transgenic, nonhuman mammals of claim 63 each expressing a different amount of mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

25 117. A method of determining the physiological effects of varying levels of activity of mammalian SNORF72 receptors which comprises producing a panel of transgenic, nonhuman mammals of claim 64 each expressing a different amount of mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

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118. A method for identifying an antagonist capable of alleviating an abnormality wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor comprising administering a compound to the transgenic, nonhuman mammal of claim 63, 65 or 67, and determining whether the compound alleviates any physiological and/or behavioral abnormality displayed by the transgenic, nonhuman mammal as a result of overactivity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor, the alleviation of such an abnormality identifying the compound as an antagonist.

119. A method for identifying an antagonist capable of alleviating an abnormality wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor comprising administering a compound to the transgenic, nonhuman mammal of claim 64, 66 or 68, and determining whether the compound alleviates any physiological and/or behavioral abnormality displayed by the transgenic, nonhuman mammal as a result of overactivity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, the alleviation of such an abnormality identifying the compound as an antagonist.

120. The method of claim 118, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

121. The method of claim 119, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

122. An antagonist identified by the method of claim 118.

123. An antagonist identified by the method of claim 119.

124. A composition comprising an antagonist of claim 122 and a carrier.

125. A composition comprising an antagonist of claim 123 and a carrier.

126. A method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 124, thereby treating the abnormality.

127. A method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 125, thereby treating the abnormality.

128. A method for identifying an agonist capable of alleviating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor comprising administering a compound to the transgenic, nonhuman mammal of claim 63, 65 or 67, and determining whether the compound alleviates any physiological and/or behavioral abnormality displayed by the transgenic, nonhuman mammal, the alleviation of such an abnormality identifying the compound as an agonist.

129. A method for identifying an agonist capable of alleviating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor comprising administering a

compound to the transgenic, nonhuman mammal of claim 64, 66 or 68, and determining whether the compound alleviates any physiological and/or behavioral abnormality displayed by the transgenic, nonhuman mammal, the alleviation of such an abnormality identifying the compound as an agonist.

130. The method of claim 128, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

131. The method of claim 129, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

132. An agonist identified by the method of claim 130.

133. An agonist identified by the method of claim 131.

134. A composition comprising an agonist identified by the method of claim 132 and a carrier.

135. A composition comprising an agonist identified by the method of claim 133 and a carrier.

136. A method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the composition of claim 134 so as to thereby treat the abnormality.

137. A method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises

administering to the subject an effective amount of the composition of claim 135 so as to thereby treat the abnormality.

5 138. A method for diagnosing a predisposition to a disorder associated with the activity of a specific mammalian allele which comprises:

- 10 (a) obtaining DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder;
- (b) performing a restriction digest of the DNA with a panel of restriction enzymes;
- 15 (c) electrophoretically separating the resulting DNA fragments on a sizing gel;
- (d) contacting the resulting gel with a nucleic acid probe capable of specifically hybridizing with a unique sequence included within the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor and labeled with a detectable marker;
- 20 (e) detecting labeled bands which have hybridized to the DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF62 receptor of claim 1 to create a unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder;
- 25 (f) repeating steps (a)-(e) with DNA obtained for diagnosis from subjects not yet suffering from the disorder; and
- 30 (g) comparing the unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder from step (e) with the band pattern from step (f) for
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subjects not yet suffering from the disorder so as to determine whether the patterns are the same or different and thereby diagnose predisposition to the disorder if the patterns are the same.

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139. A method for diagnosing a predisposition to a disorder associated with the activity of a specific mammalian allele which comprises:

- (a) obtaining DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder;
- (b) performing a restriction digest of the DNA with a panel of restriction enzymes;
- (c) electrophoretically separating the resulting DNA fragments on a sizing gel;
- (d) contacting the resulting gel with a nucleic acid probe capable of specifically hybridizing with a unique sequence included within the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor and labeled with a detectable marker;
- (e) detecting labeled bands which have hybridized to the DNA encoding a mammalian SNORF72 receptor of claim 2 to create a unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder;
- (f) repeating steps (a)-(e) with DNA obtained for diagnosis from subjects not yet suffering from the disorder; and
- (g) comparing the unique band pattern specific to the DNA of subjects suffering from the disorder from

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step (e) with the band pattern from step (f) for subjects not yet suffering from the disorder so as to determine whether the patterns are the same or different and thereby diagnose predisposition to the disorder if the patterns are the same.

140. The method of claim 138 or 139, wherein a disorder associated with the activity of a specific mammalian allele is diagnosed.

141. A method of preparing the purified mammalian SNORF62 receptor of claim 18 which comprises:

- (a) culturing cells which express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor;
- (b) recovering the mammalian SNORF62 receptor from the cells; and
- (c) purifying the mammalian SNORF62 receptor so recovered.

142. A method of preparing the purified mammalian SNORF72 receptor of claim 19 which comprises:

- (a) culturing cells which express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;
- (b) recovering the mammalian SNORF72 receptor from the cells; and
- (c) purifying the mammalian SNORF72 receptor so recovered.

143. A method of preparing the purified mammalian SNORF62

receptor of claim 18 which comprises:

- (a) inserting a nucleic acid encoding the mammalian SNORF62 receptor into a suitable expression vector;
- (b) introducing the resulting vector into a suitable host cell;
- (c) placing the resulting host cell in suitable conditions permitting the production of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor;
- (d) recovering the mammalian SNORF62 receptor so produced; and optionally
- (e) isolating and/or purifying the mammalian SNORF62 receptor so recovered.

144. A method of preparing the purified mammalian SNORF72 receptor of claim 19 which comprises:

- (a) inserting a nucleic acid encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor into a suitable expression vector;
- (b) introducing the resulting vector into a suitable host cell;
- (c) placing the resulting host cell in suitable conditions permitting the production of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;
- (d) recovering the mammalian SNORF72 receptor so produced; and optionally
- (e) isolating and/or purifying the mammalian SNORF72

receptor so recovered.

145. A process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 receptor with the compound under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, and detecting any increase in mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist.

146. A process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF62 receptor with the compound in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, and detecting any decrease in mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist.

147. A process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the compound under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and detecting any increase in mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist.

148. A process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist which comprises

contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the compound in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and detecting any decrease in mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist.

149. A process of claim 145 or 146, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

150. A process of claim 147 or 148, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

151. A composition which comprises an amount of a SNORF62 receptor agonist determined by the process of claim 145 effective to increase activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor and a carrier.

152. A composition which comprises an amount of a SNORF72 receptor agonist determined by the process of claim 147 effective to increase activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor and a carrier.

153. A composition of claim 151, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist is not previously known.

154. A composition of claim 152, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist is not previously known.

155. A composition which comprises an amount of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist determined by the process of

claim 146 effective to reduce activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor and a carrier.

5 156. A composition which comprises an amount of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist determined by the process of claim 148 effective to reduce activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor and a carrier.

10 157. A composition of claim 155, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist is not previously known.

158. A composition of claim 156, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist is not previously known.

15 159. A process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and activates a mammalian SNORF62 receptor, which comprises contacting cells producing a second messenger response and expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, wherein such
20 cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, with the chemical compound under conditions suitable for activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence and in the absence of the chemical compound,
25 a change in the second messenger response in the presence of the chemical compound indicating that the compound activates the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

30 160. A process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and activates a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises contacting cells producing a second messenger response and expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such
35 cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with the chemical compound under conditions

suitable for activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence and in the absence of the chemical compound, a change in the second messenger response in the presence of the chemical compound indicating that the compound activates the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

161. The process of claim 159 or 160, wherein the second messenger response comprises chloride channel activation and the change in second messenger is an increase in the level of chloride current.

162. The process of claim 159 or 160, wherein the second messenger response comprises intracellular calcium levels and the change in second messenger is an increase in the measure of intracellular calcium.

163. The process of claim 159 or 160, wherein the second messenger response comprises release of inositol phosphate and the change in second messenger is an increase in the level of inositol phosphate.

164. A process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and inhibits activation of a mammalian NMU receptor, which comprises separately contacting cells producing a second messenger response and expressing on their cell surface the mammalian NMU receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian NMU receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to activate the mammalian NMU receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for activation of the mammalian NMU receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence of only the second chemical compound and in the presence of both the second

chemical compound and the chemical compound, a smaller change in the second messenger response in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound indicating that the chemical compound inhibits activation of the mammalian NMU receptor.

165. The process of claim 164, wherein the second messenger response comprises chloride channel activation and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the level of chloride current in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound.

166. The process of claim 164, wherein the second messenger response comprises change in intracellular calcium levels and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the measure of intracellular calcium in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound.

167. The process of claim 164, wherein the second messenger response comprises release of inositol phosphate and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the level of inositol phosphate in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound.

168. A process of any of claims 164, 165, 166 or 167, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a human or rat SNORF62 receptor or a human or rat SNORF72 receptor.

178. A composition of claim 176, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist is not previously known.

179. A composition of claim 177, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist is not previously known.

180. A composition which comprises an amount of a mammalian NMU receptor antagonist determined to be such by the process of claim 164, 165, 166 or 167, effective to reduce activity of the mammalian NMU receptor and a carrier.

181. A composition of claim 180, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor antagonist is not previously known.

182. A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to activate a mammalian SNORF62 receptor to identify a compound which activates the mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises:

(a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF62 receptor with the plurality of compounds not known to activate the mammalian SNORF62 receptor, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor;

(b) determining whether the activity of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is increased in the presence of one or more of the compounds; and if so

(c) separately determining whether the activation of the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is increased by any compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify each compound which activates the mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

183. A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to activate a mammalian SNORF72 receptor to identify a compound which activates the mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises:

- (a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the plurality of compounds not known to activate the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;
- (b) determining whether the activity of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is increased in the presence of one or more of the compounds; and if so
- (c) separately determining whether the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is increased by any compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify each compound which activates the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

184. A method of claim 182, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

185. A method of claim 183, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

186. A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to inhibit the activation of a mammalian NMU receptor to identify a compound which inhibits the activation of the mammalian NMU receptor, which comprises:

5 (a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian NMU receptor with the plurality of compounds in the presence of a known mammalian NMU receptor agonist, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian NMU receptor;

10 (b) determining whether the extent or amount of activation of the mammalian NMU receptor is reduced in the presence of one or more of the compounds, relative to the extent or amount of activation of the mammalian NMU receptor in the absence of such one or more compounds; and if so

15 (c) separately determining whether each such compound inhibits activation of the mammalian NMU receptor for each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included in such plurality of compounds which inhibits the activation of the mammalian NMU receptor.
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25 187. A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to inhibit the activation of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor to identify a compound which inhibits the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises:

30 (a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the plurality of compounds in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;

35 (b) determining whether the extent or amount of

activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is reduced in the presence of one or more of the compounds, relative to the extent or amount of activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor in the absence of such one or more compounds; and if so

(c) separately determining whether each such compound inhibits activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor for each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included in such plurality of compounds which inhibits the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

188. A method of claim 186, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

189. A method of claim 187, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

190. A method of any one of claims 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187 or 188, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

191. A method of claim 190, wherein the mammalian cell is non-neuronal in origin.

192. The method of claim 191, wherein the non-neuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a LM(tk-) cell or an NIH-3T3 cell.

193. A composition comprising a compound identified by the method of claim 182 or 184 in an amount effective to increase mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity and a carrier.

194. A composition comprising a compound identified by the method of claim 183 or 185 in an amount effective to increase mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity and a carrier.

195. A composition comprising a compound identified by the method of claim 186 or 188 in an amount effective to decrease mammalian SNORF62 receptor activity and a carrier.

196. A composition comprising a compound identified by the method of claim 187 or 189 in an amount effective to decrease mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity and a carrier.

197. A method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises administering to the subject a compound which is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor agonist in an amount effective to treat the abnormality.

198. A method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by increasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises administering to the subject a compound which is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist in an amount effective to treat the abnormality.

199. A method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises administering to the subject a compound which is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor antagonist in an amount effective to treat the abnormality.

200. A method of treating an abnormality in a subject wherein the abnormality is alleviated by decreasing the activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises administering to the subject a compound which is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist in an amount effective to treat the abnormality.

201. A process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian NMU receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using the process of any one of claims 93, 94, 102 or 103 and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

202. The process of claim 201, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

203. The process of claim 201, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

204. The process of claim 202, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

205. The process of claim 203, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

206. A process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using the process of claim 72 or 73 and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

207. A process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using the process of claim 74 or 75 and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

208. The process of claim 206, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

209. The process of claim 207, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

210. A process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using the process of any of claims 145, 159, or 182 and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

211. A process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using the process of any of claims 147, 160, or 183 and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

212. The process of claim 210, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

213. The process of claim 211, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72

receptor.

5 214. A process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian NMU receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using the process of claim 164 or 186 and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

10 215. The process of claim 214, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a mammalian SNORF62 receptor.

15 216. The process of claim 214, wherein the mammalian NMU receptor is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor.

20 217. The process of claim 215, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

25 218. The process of claim 216, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

30 219. A process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF62 receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using the process claim 146 and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

35 220. A process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using the process of claim 148, and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or

homolog thereof.

221. The process of claim 219, wherein the mammalian SNORF62
receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62
receptor.

222. The process of claim 220, wherein the mammalian SNORF72
receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72
receptor.

223. A process for preparing a composition which comprises
admixing a carrier and a pharmaceutically effective
amount of a chemical compound identified by the process
of any of claims 72, 73, 93, 94, 103 or 104 or a novel
structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

224. A process for preparing a composition which comprises
admixing a carrier and a pharmaceutically effective
amount of a chemical compound identified by the process
of any of claims 74, 75, 93, 94, 103 or 104 or a novel
structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

225. The process of claim 223, wherein the mammalian SNORF62
receptor or the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62
receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

226. The process of claim 224, wherein the mammalian SNORF72
receptor or the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF72
receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

227. A process for preparing a composition which comprises
admixing a carrier and a pharmaceutically effective
amount of a chemical compound identified by the process
of any of claims 145, 159, or 182 or a novel structural
and functional analog or homolog thereof.

228. A process for preparing a composition which comprises admixing a carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a chemical compound identified by the process of any of claims 147, 160, or 183 or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

229. The process of claim 227, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor.

230. The process of claim 228, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.

231. A process for preparing a composition which comprises admixing a carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a chemical compound identified by the process of any of claims 146, 164 or 186 or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

232. A process for preparing a composition which comprises admixing a carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a chemical compound identified by the process of any of claims 148, 164 or 186 or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.

233. The process of claim 231, wherein the mammalian SNORF62 receptor or the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF62 receptor or a rat SNORF62 receptor.

234. The process of claim 232, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor or the mammalian NMU receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor or a rat SNORF72 receptor.

DNA ENCODING SNORF62 AND SNORF72 RECEPTORS

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 This invention provides isolated nucleic acids encoding
mammalian SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptors, purified mammalian
SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptors, vectors comprising nucleic acid
encoding mammalian SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptors, cells
comprising such vectors, antibodies directed to mammalian
10 SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptors, nucleic acid probes useful for
detecting nucleic acid encoding mammalian SNORF62 and SNORF72
receptors, antisense oligonucleotides complementary to unique
sequences of nucleic acid encoding mammalian SNORF62 and
SNORF72 receptors, transgenic, nonhuman animals which express
15 DNA encoding normal or mutant mammalian SNORF62 and SNORF72
receptors, methods of isolating mammalian SNORF62 and SNORF72
receptors, methods of treating an abnormality that is linked
to the activity of the mammalian SNORF62 and SNORF72
receptors, as well as methods of determining binding of
20 compounds to mammalian SNORF62 and SNORF72 receptors, methods
of identifying agonists and antagonists of SNORF62 and SNORF72
receptors, and agonists and antagonists so identified.
This invention also provides methods of treating an
abnormality that is linked to the activity of a mammalian NMU
25 receptor, as well as methods of determining binding of
compounds to mammalian NMU receptors, methods of identifying
agonists and antagonists of NMU receptors, and agonists and
antagonists so identified.

FIGURE 1A

1 GAGGGTGGAAGCCGGGGTCTCGCGGGCCGGGGCCGATGACTCCTCTCTG CCTCAATTG 60
61 CTCTGTCTCCCTGGAGACCTGTACCCAGGGGGTGCAAGGAACCCCATGGCTTGCAATGG 120
121 CAGTCCGGCCAGGGGGCACTTTGACCCCTGAGGACTTGAACCTGACTGACGAGGCACTGAG 180
181 ACTCAAGTACCTGGGGCCCCCAGCAGACAGAGCTGTTCATGCCCCATCTGTGCCACATACCT 240
241 GCTGATCTTCGTGGTGGGGCTGTGGGCAATGGGCTGACCTGTCTGGTCATCCTGCGCCA 300
301 CAAGGCCATGGCAGCCCTACCAACTACTACCTCTTCAGCCCTGGCCGTGTCGGACCTGCT 360
361 GGTGCTGCTGGTGGGCTGCCCTGGAGCTCTATGAGATGTGGCACAAC TACCCCTTCCT 420
421 GCTGGGCGTTGGTGGCTGCTATTTCGGCACGCTACTGTTTGAGATGGTCTGCCCTGGCCCTC 480
481 AGTGCTCAACGTCACTGCCCTGAGCGTGGAACGCTATGTGGCCGTGGTGCAACCCACTCCA 540
541 GGCCAGGTCCATGGTGACGGGGCCCATGTGCGCCGAGTGCTTGGGGCCGTCTGGGGTCT 600
601 TGCCATGCTCTGCTCCCTGCCCAACACCAAGCCTGCACGGCATCCGGCAGCTGCACGTGCC 660
661 CTGCCCCGGGCCAGTGCCAGACTCAGCTGTTTGCATGCTGGTCCGCCCCACGGGCCCTCTA 720

FIGURE 1B

721 CAACATGGTAGTGCAGACCACCGCGCTGCTCTTCTTCGCCCTGCCCATGGCCATCATGAG 780
781 CGTGCTCTACCTGCTCATTTGGGCTGCCACTGCCGGGGAGAGGCTGCTGCTCATGCAGGA 840
841 GGCCAAGGCAGGGGCTCTGCAGCAGCCAGGTCACAGATACACCTGCAGGCTCCAGCAGCA 900
901 CGATCGGGGCCGGAGACAAGTGACCAAGATGCTGTTGTCTCGTGTGCTGTTGGCAT 960
961 CTGCTGGGCCCCGTTCCACGCCGACCGGTCATGTGGAGCGTCGTGCACAGTGGACAGA 1020
1021 TGGCCTGACCTGGCCCTTCCAGCACGTGCACGTCATCTCCGGCATCTTCTTCTACCTGGG 1080
1081 CTCGGCGGCCAACCCCGTGCTCTATAGCCTCATGTCCAGCCGCTTCCGAGAGACCCTTCCA 1140
1141 GGAGGCCCTGTGCCCTCGGGGCTGCTGCCATCGCCCTCAGACCCCGCCACAGCTCCCACAG 1200
1201 CCTCAGCAGGATGACCACAGGCAGCACCCCTGTGTGATGTGGGCTCCCTGGGCAGCTGGGT 1260
1261 CCACCCCCCTGGCAACGATGGCCCCAGAGCGGCAGCAAGAGACCGATCCATCCTGA 1318

FIGURE 2B

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FIGURE 3B

721	TCAGTGTCCCTACTACCTCATGGCACTCAGACTAAAGAAAGACAAATCTCTTGAGGCAG	780
781	ATGAAGGGAATGCAGAAATATTCAAAGACCCCTGCAGAAAAATCAGTCAACAAGATGCTGTTTG	840
841	TCTTGGTCTTAGTGTTTTGCTATCTGTGGGCCCCCGTTCCACATTTGACCGACTCTTCTTCA	900
901	GCTTTGTGGAGGAGTGGAGTGAAATCCCCTGGCTGCTGTGTTCACACCTCGTCCATGTGGTGT	960
961	CAGGTGTCTTCTTCTACCTGAGCTCAGCTGTCAACCCCATTTATCTATAACCTACTGTCTC	1020
1021	GCCGCTTCCAGCAGCATTTCCAGAAATGTGATCTCTTCTTTCCACAAACAGTGGCACTCCC	1080
1081	AGCATGACCCACAGTTGCCACCTGCCAGCGGAACATCTTCTCTGACAGAAATGCCACTTTG	1140
1141	TGGAGCTGACCGAAGATATAGGTCCCCCAATTCCCATGTCAATCCATGCCACAACCTCTC	1200
1201	ACCTCCCAACAGCCCCTCTCTAGTGAAACAGATGTCAAGAAACAACCTATCAAAAGCTTCCACT	1260
1261	TTAAACAAAACCTGAATTTCTTTCAGAGCTGACTCTCCCTC	1298

FIGURE 4A

1	M	S	G	M	E	K	L	Q	N	A	S	W	I	Y	Q	Q	K	L	E	D	20
21	P	F	Q	K	H	L	N	S	T	E	E	Y	L	A	F	L	C	G	P	R	40
41	R	S	H	F	F	L	P	V	S	V	V	Y	V	P	I	F	V	V	G	V	60
61	I	G	N	V	L	V	C	L	V	I	L	Q	H	Q	A	M	K	T	P	T	80
81	N	Y	Y	L	F	S	L	A	V	S	D	L	L	V	L	L	L	G	M	P	100
101	L	E	V	Y	E	M	W	R	N	Y	P	F	L	F	G	P	V	G	C	Y	120
121	F	K	T	A	L	F	E	T	V	C	F	A	S	I	L	S	I	T	T	V	140
141	S	V	E	R	Y	V	A	I	L	H	P	F	R	A	K	L	Q	S	T	R	160
161	R	R	A	L	R	I	L	G	I	V	W	G	F	S	V	L	F	S	L	P	180
181	N	T	S	I	H	G	I	K	F	H	Y	F	P	N	G	S	L	V	P	G	200
201	S	A	T	C	T	V	I	K	P	M	W	I	Y	N	F	I	I	Q	V	T	220
221	S	F	L	F	Y	L	L	P	M	T	V	I	S	V	L	Y	Y	L	M	A	240

241	L	R	L	K	K	D	K	S	L	E	A	D	E	G	N	A	N	I	Q	R	260
261	P	C	R	K	S	V	N	K	M	L	F	V	L	V	L	V	F	A	I	C	280
281	W	A	P	F	H	I	D	R	L	F	F	S	F	V	E	E	W	S	E	S	300
301	L	A	A	V	F	N	L	V	H	V	V	S	G	V	F	F	Y	L	S	S	320
321	A	V	N	P	I	I	Y	N	L	L	S	R	R	F	Q	A	A	F	Q	N	340
341	V	I	S	S	F	H	K	Q	W	H	S	Q	H	D	P	Q	L	P	P	A	360
361	Q	R	N	I	F	L	T	E	C	H	F	V	E	L	T	E	D	I	G	P	380
381	Q	F	P	C	Q	S	S	M	H	N	S	H	L	P	T	A	L	S	S	E	400
401	Q	M	S	R	T	N	Y	Q	S	F	H	F	N	K	T						415

FIGURE 5

```

1  MTPLCLNCSVLPGLDLYPGGARNPMACNGSAARGHFD. .EDLNLTDEALR 48
      | . . . . . || . || | : | |
1  .....MSGMEKLQNASWIYQOKLEDPFQKHLNSTEEYLA 34
      | . . . . .
49  LKYLGPQQTLELMPICATYLLIFVVGAVGNGLTCLVLILRHKAMRTPTNYY 98
      ||... |:|: |. ||||| :|| | |||||.|.||:|||||
35  F.LCGPRRSHFFLPVSVVYVPIFVVGVIGNVLVCLVLILQHQAMKTPTNYY 83
      | . . . . .
99  LFSLAVSDLLVLLVGLPLELYEMWHNYPFLLGVGGCYFRTLLFEMVCLAS 148
      |||||...|.||:||||.|||| | |||||:| || | ||
84  LFSLAVSDLLVLLLGMPLLEVYEMWRNYPFLFGPVGCYFKTALFETVCFAS 133
      | . . . . .
149  VLNVTALSVERYVAVVHPLQARSMVTRAHVRRVLGAVWGLAMLCSLPNTS 198
      :|.:| .|||||||:..|| |:| || |..| |||||
134  ILSITTVSVERYVAILHPFRAKLQSTRRALRILGIVWGFSVLFSLPNTS 183
      | . . . . .
199  LHGIRQLHVPCRGPVPDSAVCMVLRPRALYNMVVQTTALLFFCLPMAIMS 248
      :|||: : | || || |.:| :|| :| |. ||: || |.:|
184  IHGIKFHYFPNGSLVPGSATCTVIKPMWIYNFIIQVTSFLFYLLPMTVIS 233
      | . . . . .
249  VLYLLIGLRLRRERLLLMQEAKGRGSAAARSRYTCRLQQHDRGRRQVTKM 298
      ||| |. |||:|:| | | | | . | | :| ||
234  VLYYLMALRLKKDKSLEADEGN.....ANIQRPC.....RKSVNKM 269
      | . . . . .
299  LFLVLVVVFGICWAPFHADRVMMWSVVSQWTDGLHLAFQHVHVISGIFYLG 348
      |||||.|| ||||| |||. .| | :|:| | | | :|:| |||
270  LFLVLVLVFAICWAPFHIDRLFFSFVEEWSESAAVFNLVHVVSQVFFYLS 319
      | . . . . .
349  SAANPVLYSLMSSRFRETQFQAL.CLGACCH.....RLRPRHSSHSLSRM 392
      || ||:|. |:| ||. || : | | . | . |.
320  SAVNPPIIYNLLSRRFQAAAFQNVISSFHKQWHSQHDPQLPPAQRNIFLTEC 369
      | . . . . .
393  TTGSTLCDVGSLSWSVHPLAGNDGPEAQQETDPS..... 426
      |:| : . || | |
370  HFVELTEDIGPQFPCQSSMHNSHLPTALSSEQMSRTNYQSFHFNKT 415

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FIGURE 6

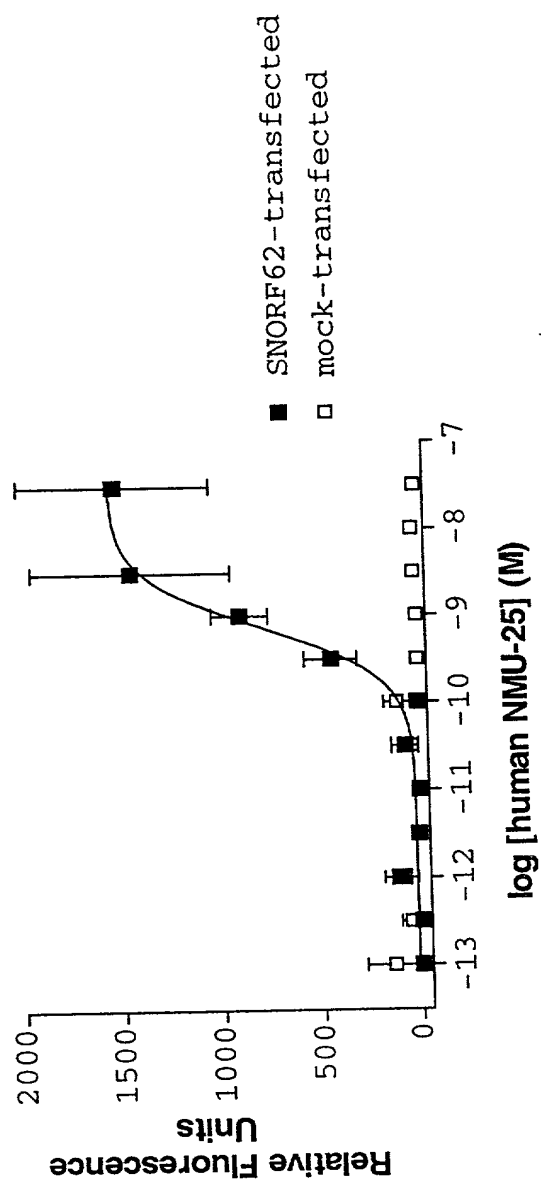


FIGURE 7

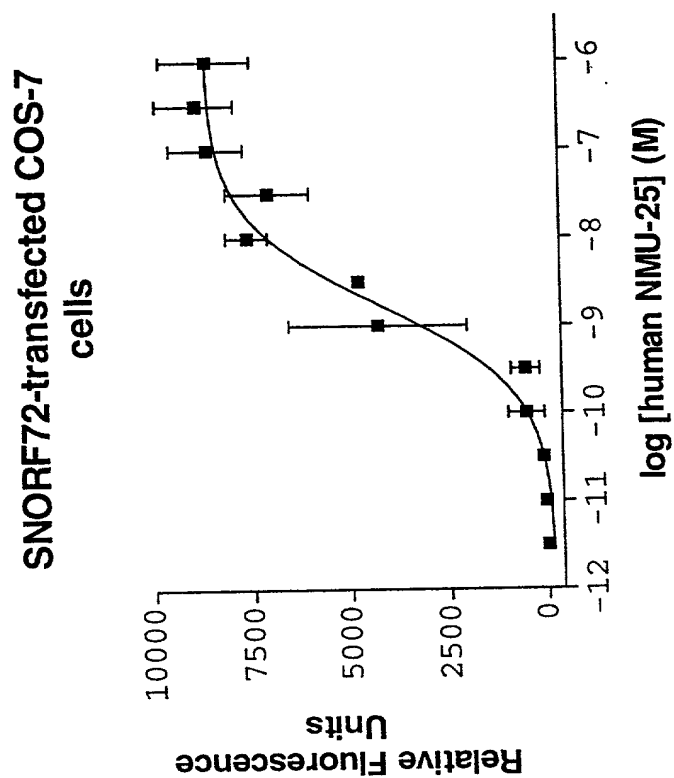


FIGURE 8

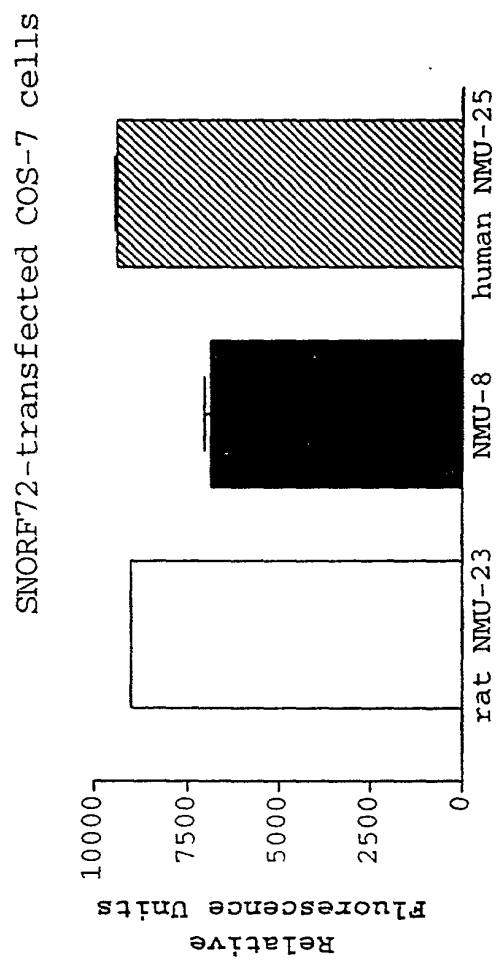


FIGURE 9A

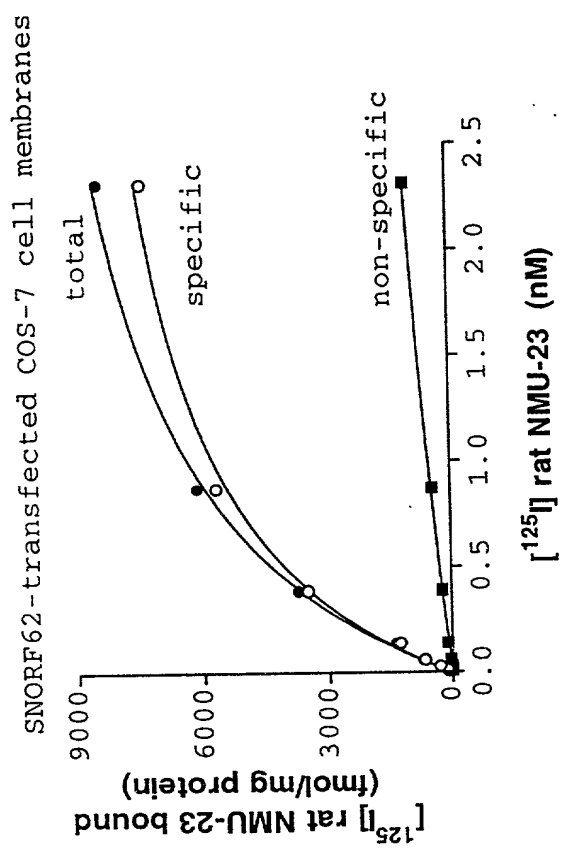


FIGURE 9B

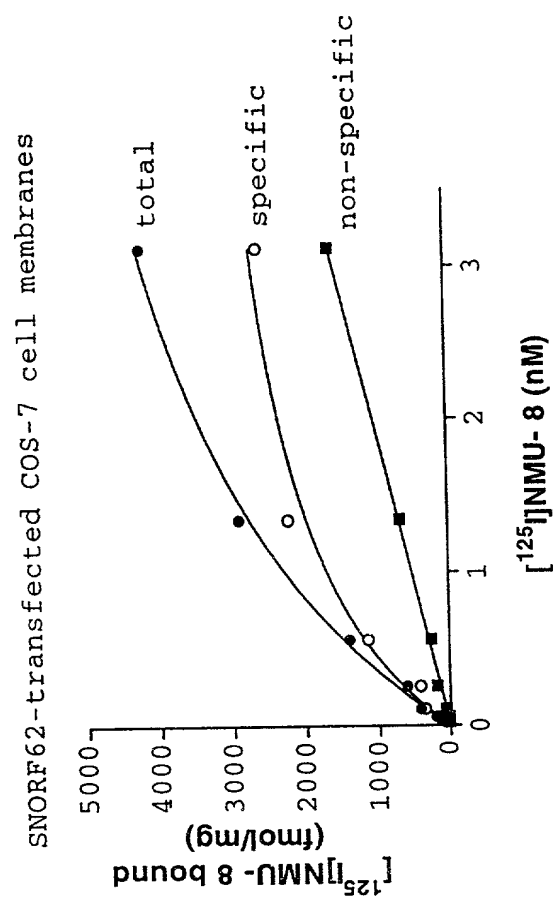


FIGURE 10

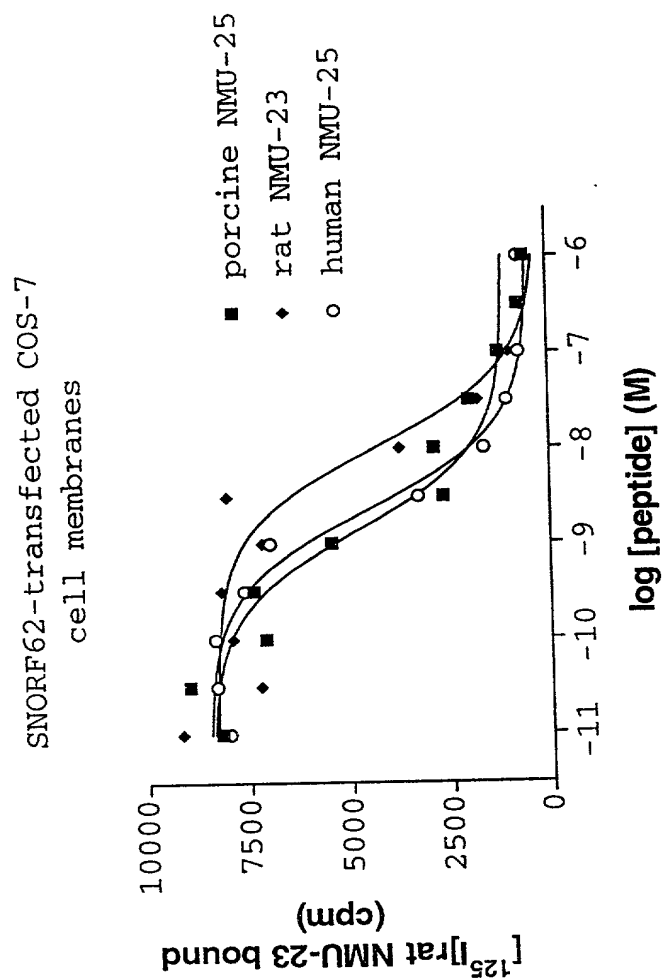


FIGURE 11A

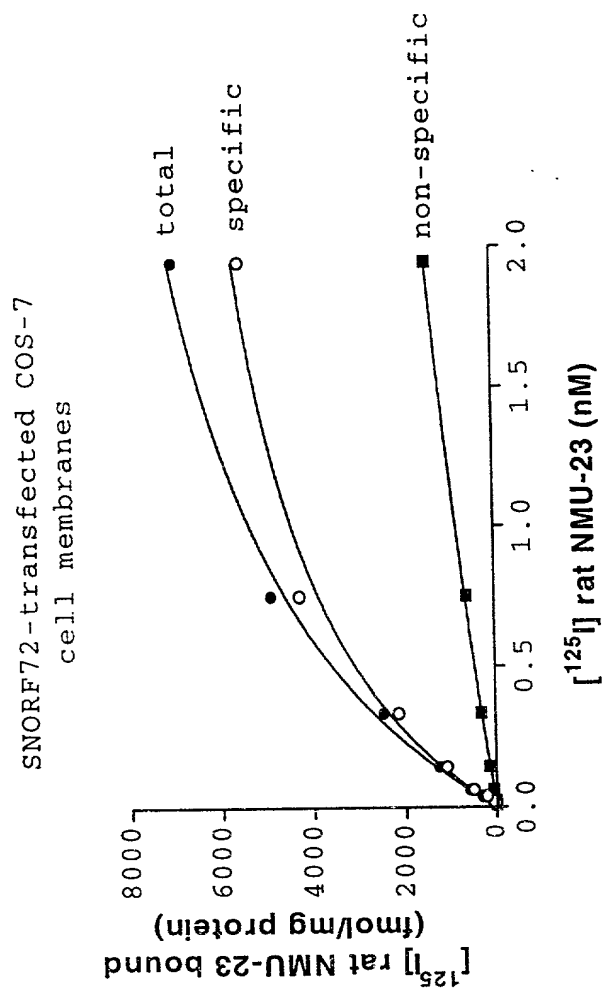


FIGURE 11B

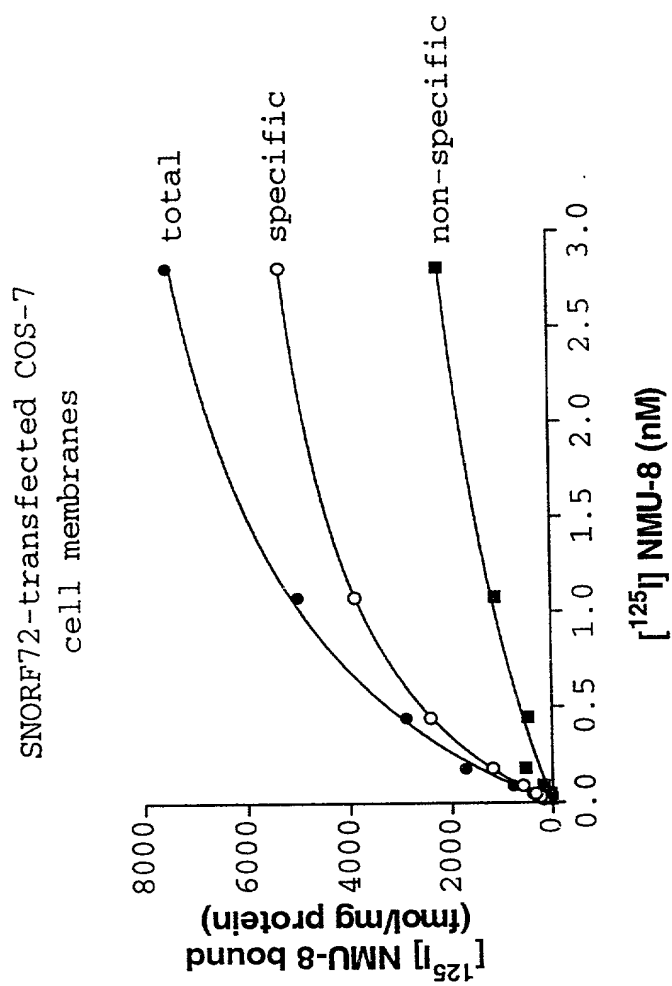
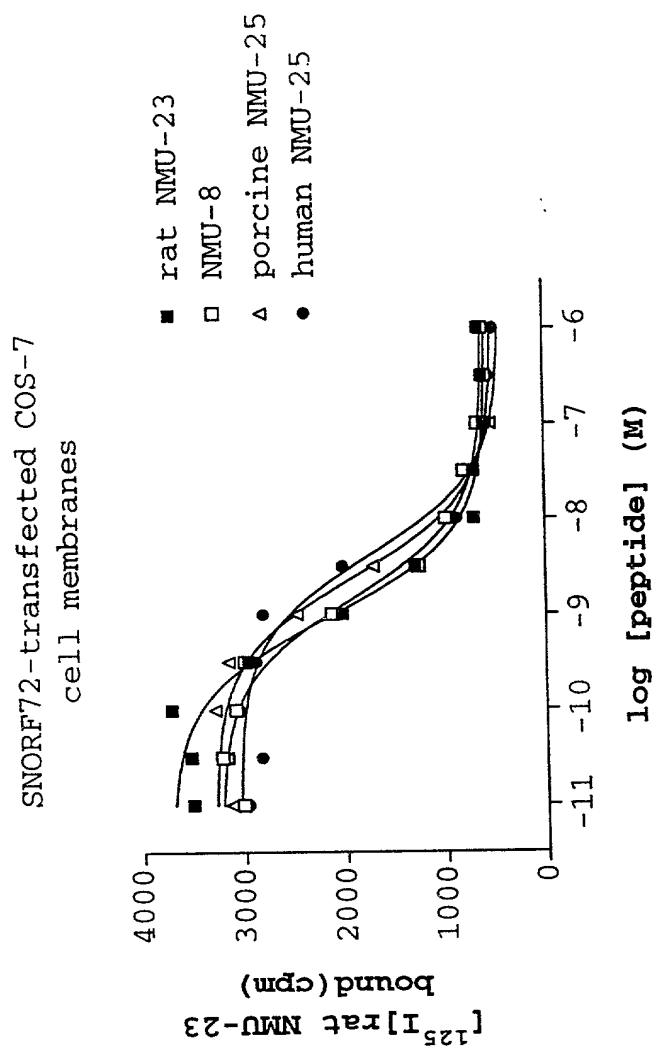


FIGURE 12



Human Neuromedin U-25 10^{-6} M

(Uninjected)

Human Neuromedin U-25 10^{-6} M

(hSNORF62)

500 nA

10 s

500 nA

FIGURE 14A

1 GTTGTGGATTTTAAGCTCAGTAATGGGAAAACCTTGAAAAATGCTTCCTGGATCCACGATCC 60
61 TCTCATGAAGTACTTGAAACAGCACAGAGGAGTACTTGGCCACACCTGTGTGGACCCCAAGCG 120
121 CAGTGACCTATCCCTTCCGGTGTCTGTGGCCCTATGCCCTGATCTTCCCTGGTGGGGTAAT 180
181 GGGCAATCTTCTGGTGTGCAATGGTGATTTGTCCGACATCAGACTTTTGAAGACACCCACCCAA 240
241 CTACTATCTCTCAGCTTGGCAGTCTCAGATCTGCTGGTCCCTGCTCTTGGGGATGCCCTCT 300
301 GGAAATCTACGAGATGTGGCACAAATTACCCCTTTCCCTGTTCGGGCCCTGTGGGATGCTACTT 360
361 CAAGACAGCCCTCTTCGAGACTGTGTGCTTTGCCCTCCATTCTCAGTGTCAACACGGTTAG 420
421 CGTAGAGCGCTATGTGGCCATTGTCCACCCCTTTCCGAGCCAAAGCTGGAGACACGCGGCG 480
481 ACGGGCCCTCAGGATCCTCAGCCTAGTCTGGAGCTTCTCTGTGTCTTTCTTTGCCCCAA 540
541 TACCAGCATCCATGGCATCAAGTTCCAGCACTTTCCCAACGGGTCCCTCCGTACCTGGCTC 600
601 AGCCACCTGCACAGTCACCAAAACCCCATGTGGGTGTATAACTTGATCATCCAAGCTACCAG 660
661 CTTCCCTCTTCTACATCTCCCAATGACCCCTCATCAGCGTCCCTCTACTACCTCATGGGGCT 720

FIGURE 15A

1	M	G	K	L	E	N	A	S	W	I	H	D	P	L	M	K	Y	L	N	S	20
21	T	E	E	Y	L	A	H	L	C	G	P	K	R	S	D	L	S	L	P	V	40
41	S	V	A	Y	A	L	I	F	L	V	G	V	M	G	N	L	L	V	C	M	60
61	V	I	V	R	H	Q	T	L	K	T	P	T	N	Y	Y	L	F	S	L	A	80
81	V	S	D	L	L	V	L	L	L	G	M	P	L	E	I	Y	E	M	W	H	100
101	N	Y	P	F	L	F	G	P	V	G	C	Y	F	K	T	A	L	F	E	T	120
121	V	C	F	A	S	I	L	S	V	T	T	V	S	V	E	R	Y	V	A	I	140
141	V	H	P	F	R	A	K	L	E	S	T	R	R	R	A	L	R	I	L	S	160
161	L	V	W	S	F	S	V	V	F	S	L	P	N	T	S	I	H	G	I	K	180
181	F	Q	H	F	P	N	G	S	S	V	P	G	S	A	T	C	T	V	T	K	200
201	P	M	W	V	Y	N	L	I	I	Q	A	T	S	F	L	F	Y	I	L	P	220
221	M	T	L	I	S	V	L	Y	Y	L	M	G	L	R	L	K	R	D	E	S	240

FIGURE 15B

241	L	E	A	N	K	V	A	V	N	I	H	R	P	S	R	K	S	V	T	K	260
261	M	L	F	V	L	V	L	V	F	A	I	C	W	T	P	F	H	V	D	R	280
281	L	F	F	S	F	V	E	E	W	T	E	S	L	A	A	V	F	N	L	I	300
301	H	V	V	S	G	V	F	F	Y	L	S	S	A	V	N	P	I	I	Y	N	320
321	L	L	S	R	R	F	R	A	A	F	R	N	V	V	S	P	T	C	K	W	340
341	C	H	P	R	H	R	P	Q	G	P	P	A	Q	K	I	I	F	L	T	E	360
361	C	H	L	V	E	L	T	E	D	A	G	P	Q	F	P	G	Q	S	S	I	380
381	H	N	T	N	L	T	T	A	P	C	A	G	E	V	P	*					395

FIGURE 16A

SNORF72_RAT	~~~~~	~~~~~M	GKLENASWIHDPLMK	YLNSTEEYLA
SNORF72_HUMAN	~~~~~	~~~~~MSGM	EKLQNASWIY	QQKLEDFFQK	HLNSTEEYLA
SNORF62_HUMAN	MTPLCLNCSV	LPGDLYPGA	RNPMACNGSA	ARGHFDP..E	DLNLTDEALR
SNORF72_RAT	H.LCGPKRSD	LSLPVSVAYA	LIFLVGVMGN	LLVCMVIVRH	QTLKTPNTYY
SNORF72_HUMAN	F.LCGPRRSH	FFLPVSVVYV	PIFVVGVI GN	VLVCLVILQH	QAMKTPNTYY
SNORF62_HUMAN	LKYLGPQQTE	LFMPICATYL	LIFVVGAVGN	GLTCLVILRH	KAMRTPTNYY
SNORF72_RAT	LFSLAVSDLL	VLLLGMPLEI	YEMWHNYPFL	FGPVGCYFKT	ALFETVCFAS
SNORF72_HUMAN	LFSLAVSDLL	VLLLGMPLEV	YEMWRNYPFL	FGPVGCYFKT	ALFETVCFAS
SNORF62_HUMAN	LFSLAVSDLL	VLLLVGLPLEL	YEMWHNYPFL	LGVGGCYFRT	LLFEMVCLAS
SNORF72_RAT	ILSVTTVSVE	RYVAIVHPFR	AKLESTRRRA	LRILSLVWSF	SVVFSLPNTS
SNORF72_HUMAN	ILSITTVSVE	RYVAILHPFR	AKLQSTRRRA	LRILGIVWGF	SVLFSLPNTS
SNORF62_HUMAN	VLNVLTALSVE	RYVAVVHPLQ	ARSMVTRAHV	RRVLGAVWGL	AMLCSLPNTS
SNORF72_RAT	IHGKFKQHFP	NGSSVPGSAT	CTVTKPMWVY	NLI IQATSFL	FYILPMTLIS
SNORF72_HUMAN	IHGKFKHYFP	NGSLVPGSAT	CTVIKPMWIY	NFI IQVTSFL	FYLLPMTVIS
SNORF62_HUMAN	LHGIRQLHVP	CRGPVPDSAV	CMLVRPRALY	NMVVQTTALL	FFCLPMAIMS

FIGURE 16B

SNORF72_RAT	VLYYLMGLRL	KRDESL...E	A...NKVAVN	IHRPS.....	...RKSVTKM
SNORF72_HUMAN	VLYYLMALRL	KKDKSL...E	A...DEGNAN	IQRPC.....	...RKSVNKM
SNORF62_HUMAN	VLYLLIGLRL	RRERLLMQE	AKGRGSAAR	SRYTCRLQQH	DRGRRQVTKM
SNORF72_RAT	LFVLVLVFAI	CWTPFHVDR	FFSFVEEWTE	SLAAVFNLIH	VVSGVFFYLS
SNORF72_HUMAN	LFVLVLVFAI	CWAPFHIDRL	FFSFVEEWSE	SLAAVFNLVH	VVSGVFFYLS
SNORF62_HUMAN	LFVLVVVFGI	CWAPFHADRV	MWSVVSQWTD	GLHLAFQHVH	VISGIFFFYLG
SNORF72_RAT	SAVNPIIYNL	LSRRFRAAFR	NV..VSPTCK	WCHPRHRPQG	PPAQKIIFLT
SNORF72_HUMAN	SAVNPIIYNL	LSRRFQAAFQ	NV..ISSFHK	QWHSQHDPQL	PPAQRNIFLT
SNORF62_HUMAN	SAANPVLYSL	MSSRFRETFQ	EALCLGACCH	RLRPRHSSH.	SLSRMTTGST
SNORF72_RAT	ECHLVELTED	AGPQFPQGSS	IHNTNLTAP	CAGEVP~~~~	~~~~~
SNORF72_HUMAN	ECHFVELTED	IGPQFPCQSS	MHNSHLPTAL	SSEQMSRTNY	QSFHFNKT
SNORF62_HUMAN	LCDVGSLGSW	VHPLAGNDGP	EAQQETDPS~	~~~~~	~~~~~

FIGURE 17A

1	CACCATCTCGGTTTAAGATAAAGATA	60
	<u>ATGGAGCTCTCCCCAAATGCTTCAACGGCCTCTT</u>	
61	GTCCCTGCAATGACAGTGAGTTC	120
	AAGGAGCACTTTGACCTTGAGGACCTGAACCTTACTCA	
121	TGAGGACCTGAGGCTGAAGTACTT	180
	TGGGGCCACAGCAGGTA	
	AAAACAATTTTGTCCCACATCTG	
181	TGTCACGTACCTGTTGATCTT	240
	CGTAGTGGGCACCTCTGGGCAACGGGTGACCTGCACCGT	
241	CATCCTGCGCCAGAAAGGCAAT	300
	GCACACGCCCAACCAACTTCTACCTCTTCAGTCTCGCGGT	
301	GTCCGATTTGCTGGTGCTCCT	360
	TGGTGGGCTTGCCCCCTGGAACTTTATGAGATGCAGCACAA	
361	TTACCCATTCCAGCTGGGTGCAGGT	420
	GGCTGTACTTCCGGATACTGCTTTTGGAGACTGT	
421	CTGCCCTGGCTTCAGTGCTCAAT	480
	GTCAATGTCACAGCCCTAAGTGTGGAGCGTTATGTGGCCCGTGGT	
481	GCACCCACTCCAAGCCAAAGTCT	540
	GTGATGACACGGACCCCATGTGCGCCGCATGTTGGGAGC	
541	CATCTGGGTCTTCGCTATTCT	600
	CTCTTCTCTGCCCCAACACACAGCTTACATGGCCCTCAGTCC	
601	ACTCTATGTACCCCTGCCGGGG	660
	CGGCGGTGCCCCGATTTCAGTTACGTGTACGCTGGTGCCTCC	
661	CCAGTTCTTCTACAAAGTTGGT	720
	AAATACAGACGACCATACTGCTCTTCTTCTGTCTGCCCCAT	

FIGURE 18A

1	M	E	L	S	P	N	A	S	T	G	L	L	S	C	N	D	S	E	F	K	20
21	E	H	F	D	L	E	D	L	N	L	T	H	E	D	L	R	L	K	Y	L	40
41	G	P	Q	Q	V	K	Q	F	L	P	I	C	V	T	Y	L	L	I	F	V	60
61	V	G	T	L	G	N	G	L	T	C	T	V	I	L	R	Q	K	A	M	H	80
81	T	P	T	N	F	Y	L	F	S	L	A	V	S	D	L	L	V	L	L	V	100
101	G	L	P	L	E	L	Y	E	M	Q	H	N	Y	P	F	Q	L	G	A	G	120
121	G	C	Y	F	R	I	L	L	L	E	T	V	C	L	A	S	V	L	N	V	140
141	T	A	L	S	V	E	R	Y	V	A	V	V	H	P	L	Q	A	K	S	V	160
161	M	T	R	T	H	V	R	R	M	L	G	A	I	W	V	F	A	I	L	F	180
181	S	L	P	N	T	S	L	H	G	L	S	P	L	Y	V	P	C	R	G	P	200
201	V	P	D	S	V	T	C	T	L	V	R	P	Q	F	F	Y	K	L	V	I	220
221	Q	T	T	I	L	L	F	F	C	L	P	M	V	T	I	S	V	L	Y	L	240

FIGURE 19A

1 GGGACAGCAGCTTAGACCCAAAGTCTCATGGACTTCCTCTCTCAGTGTCAATTTTTCCTCA 60
61 TCTGTAAAATGGGATTTGTTGTCCAGAAAAGGAGACATTTCTCAGCTTCGGCTCTCCCCAA 120
121 ATGCTTCAACGGGCTCTTGTCCCTGCAATGACAGTGAGTTCAAGGAGCACTTTTGACCTTG 180
181 AGGACCTGAACCTTACTCATGAGGACCTGAGGCTGAAGTACTTGGGGCCACAGCAGGTAA 240
241 AACAAATTTTGCCCATCTGTGTACGTACCTGTTGATCTTCGTAGTGGGCACCTCTGGGCA 300
301 ACGGGTTGACCTGCACCGTCATCCTGCGCCAGAAAGGCAATGCACACGCCCCACCAACTTCT 360
361 ACCTCTTCAGTCTCGCGGTGTCCGATTTGCTGGTGCTCCTGGTGGGCTTGCCCCCTGGAAC 420
421 TTTATGAGATGCAGCACAAATTACCCATTTCCAGCTGGGTGCAGGTGGCTGTACTTCCGGA 480
481 TACTGCTTTTGGAGACTGTCTGCCCTGGCTTCAGTGCTCAATGTCAAGCCCTAAGTGTGG 540
541 AGCGTTATGTGGCCGTGGTGCACCCACTCCAAGCCAAGTCTGTGATGACACGGACCCCATG 600
601 TCGGCCCGCATGTTGGGAGCCATCTGGGTCTTCGCTATTCTCTCTCTGCCCCAACACCA 660
661 GCTTACATGGCCCTCAGTCCACTCTATGTACCCTGCCGGGGCCGGTGCCCGATTTCAGTTA 720

FIGURE 20A

1	M	D	F	L	S	Q	C	H	F	F	L	I	C	K	M	G	L	L	S	R	20
21	K	R	R	H	S	Q	L	R	L	S	P	N	A	S	T	G	L	L	S	C	40
41	N	D	S	E	F	K	E	H	F	D	L	E	D	L	N	L	T	H	E	D	60
61	L	R	L	K	Y	L	G	P	Q	Q	V	K	Q	F	L	P	I	C	V	T	80
81	<u>Y</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>L</u>	100
101	R	Q	K	A	M	H	T	P	T	N	F	Y	L	F	S	L	A	V	S	D	120
121	<u>L</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>P</u>	140
141	F	Q	L	G	A	G	G	C	Y	F	R	I	L	L	L	E	T	V	C	L	160
161	<u>A</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>P</u>	180
181	L	Q	A	K	S	V	M	T	R	T	H	V	R	R	M	L	G	A	I	W	200
201	<u>V</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Y</u>	220
221	V	P	C	R	G	P	V	P	D	S	V	T	C	T	L	V	R	P	Q	F	240

241	F	Y	K	L	V	I	Q	T	T	I	L	L	F	F	C	L	P	M	V	T	260
261	I	S	V	L	Y	L	L	I	G	L	R	L	R	R	E	R	M	L	L	Q	280
281	E	E	V	K	G	R	I	S	A	A	A	R	Q	A	S	H	R	S	I	Q	300
301	L	R	D	R	E	R	R	Q	V	T	K	M	L	I	A	L	V	I	V	F	320
321	G	T	C	W	V	P	F	H	A	D	R	L	M	W	S	M	V	S	H	W	340
341	T	D	G	L	R	L	A	F	Q	S	V	H	L	A	S	G	V	F	L	Y	360
361	L	G	S	A	A	N	P	E	L	Y	N	L	M	S	T	R	F	R	E	S	380
381	F	R	E	T	L	G	L	G	T	R	C	C	H	R	H	Q	P	R	H	D	400
401	S	H	S	H	L	R	L	T	T	V	S	T	L	C	D	R	N	S	R	D	420
421	V	P	L	A	E	N	R	D	P	G	C	E	Q	E	T	D	P	P	E		439

FIGURE 21B

Rat	SNORF62a	VFAILFSLPN	TSLHGLSPY	VPCRGVPDPS	VTCTLVRPQF	FYKLVITTI
Rat	SNORF62b	VFAILFSLPN	TSLHGLSPY	VPCRGVPDPS	VTCTLVRPQF	FYKLVITTI
Hum	SNORF62	GLAMLCSLPN	TSLHGIRQLH	VPCRGVPDPS	AVCMLVRPRA	LYNMVVQTTA
Rat	SNORF62a	LLFFCLPMVT	ISVLYLLIGL	RLRRERMLLQ	EEVKGRISAA	ARQASHRSIQ
Rat	SNORF62b	LLFFCLPMVT	ISVLYLLIGL	RLRRERMLLQ	EEVKGRISAA	ARQASHRSIQ
Hum	SNORF62	LLFFCLPMAI	MSVLYLLIGL	RLRRERLLLM	QEAAGRGSAA	ARSRYTCRLQ
Rat	SNORF62a	LRDRERRQVT	KMLIALVIVF	GTCWVPFHAD	RLMWSMVSHW	TDGLRLAFQS
Rat	SNORF62b	LRDRERRQVT	KMLIALVIVF	GTCWVPFHAD	RLMWSMVSHW	TDGLRLAFQS
Hum	SNORF62	QHDRGRRQVT	KMLFVLVVVF	GICWAPFHAD	RVMWSVVSQW	TDGLHLAFQH
Rat	SNORF62a	VHLASGVFLY	LGSAAANPELY	NLMSTRFRES	FRETGLGTR	CCHRHQPRHD
Rat	SNORF62b	VHLASGVFLY	LGSAAANPELY	NLMSTRFRES	FRETGLGTR	CCHRHQPRHD
Hum	SNORF62	VHVISGIFY	LGSAAANPELY	SLMSSRFRET	FQEALCLGA.	CCHRLRPRHS

FIGURE 21C

Species	SNORF62a	SNORF62b	SNORF62
Rat	SHSHLRLLTV	SHSHLRLLTV	SHSHLRLLTV
Rat	SHSHLRLLTV	SHSHLRLLTV	SHSHLRLLTV
Hum	SHSLSRMTTG	SHSLSRMTTG	SHSLSRMTTG

FIGURE 22

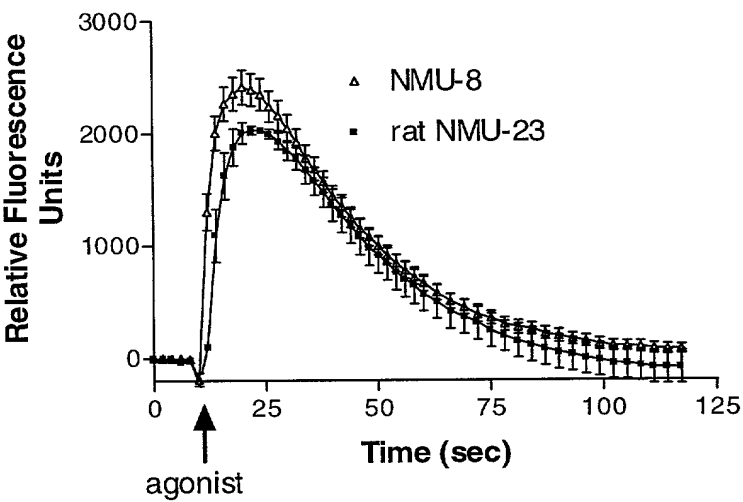
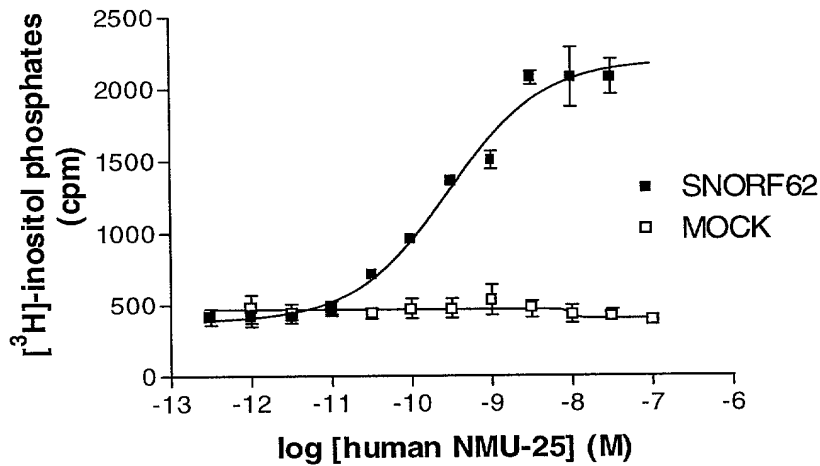


FIGURE 23



SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Bonini et al, James A.

<120> DNA Encoding SNORF62 And SNOEF72 Receptors

<130> 60794-B

<140>

<141>

<150> 09/558,099

<151> 2000-04-25

<160> 46

<170> PatentIn Ver. 2.1

<210> 1

<211> 1318

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

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cagtgcggcc agggggcact ttgaccctga ggacttgaac ctgactgacg aggcactgag 180
actcaagtac ctggggcccc agcagacaga gctgttcatg cccatctgtg ccacatacct 240
gctgatcttc gtgggtgggcg ctgtgggcaa tgggctgacc tgtctgggtc tcttgcccca 300
caaggccatg cgcacgccta ccaactacta cctcttcagc ctggccgtgt cggacctgct 360
gggtgctgctg gtgggcctgc cctggagct ctatgagatg tggcacaact accccttct 420
gctgggcgtt ggtggctgct atttccgcac gctactgttt gagatgggtc gcctggcctc 480
agtgtcaaac gtcactgcc tgagcgtgga acgctatgtg gccgtgggtg acccactcca 540
ggccaggtcc atggtgacgc gggcccatgt gcgccgagtg cttggggccg tctgggggtc 600
tgccatgctc tgctccctgc ccaacaccag cctgcacggc atccggcagc tgcacgtgcc 660
ctgccggggc ccagtgccag actcagctgt ttgcatgctg gtccgccac gggccctcta 720
caacatggta gtgcagacca ccgcgctgct cttcttctgc ctgcccatgg ccatcatgag 780
cgtgctctac ctgctcattg ggctgcgact gcggcgggag aggtgctgc tcatgcagga 840
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cgatcggggc cggagacaag tgaccaagat gctgtttgtc ctggctgtgg tgtttggcat 960
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ctcggcggcc aaccccgctg tctatagcct catgtccagc cgttcccgag agaccttcca 1140
ggaggccctg tgctcgggg cctgctgcca tcgcctcaga ccccgccaca gctcccacag 1200
cctcagcagg atgaccacag gcagaccct gtgtgatgtg ggctccctgg gcagctgggt 1260

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ccacccccctg gctggggaacg atggcccaga ggcgcagcaa gagaccgatc catcctga 1318

<210> 2

<211> 426

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 2

Met Thr Pro Leu Cys Leu Asn Cys Ser Val Leu Pro Gly Asp Leu Tyr
1 5 10 15

Pro Gly Gly Ala Arg Asn Pro Met Ala Cys Asn Gly Ser Ala Ala Arg
20 25 30

Gly His Phe Asp Pro Glu Asp Leu Asn Leu Thr Asp Glu Ala Leu Arg
35 40 45

Leu Lys Tyr Leu Gly Pro Gln Gln Thr Glu Leu Phe Met Pro Ile Cys
50 55 60

Ala Thr Tyr Leu Leu Ile Phe Val Val Gly Ala Val Gly Asn Gly Leu
65 70 75 80

Thr Cys Leu Val Ile Leu Arg His Lys Ala Met Arg Thr Pro Thr Asn
85 90 95

Tyr Tyr Leu Phe Ser Leu Ala Val Ser Asp Leu Leu Val Leu Leu Val
100 105 110

Gly Leu Pro Leu Glu Leu Tyr Glu Met Trp His Asn Tyr Pro Phe Leu
115 120 125

Leu Gly Val Gly Gly Cys Tyr Phe Arg Thr Leu Leu Phe Glu Met Val
130 135 140

Cys Leu Ala Ser Val Leu Asn Val Thr Ala Leu Ser Val Glu Arg Tyr
145 150 155 160

Val Ala Val Val His Pro Leu Gln Ala Arg Ser Met Val Thr Arg Ala
165 170 175

His Val Arg Arg Val Leu Gly Ala Val Trp Gly Leu Ala Met Leu Cys
180 185 190

Ser	Leu	Pro	Asn	Thr	Ser	Leu	His	Gly	Ile	Arg	Gln	Leu	His	Val	Pro	
195						200						205				
Cys	Arg	Gly	Pro	Val	Pro	Asp	Ser	Ala	Val	Cys	Met	Leu	Val	Arg	Pro	
210						215						220				
Arg	Ala	Leu	Tyr	Asn	Met	Val	Val	Gln	Thr	Thr	Ala	Leu	Leu	Phe	Phe	
225						230						235				
Cys	Leu	Pro	Met	Ala	Ile	Met	Ser	Val	Leu	Tyr	Leu	Leu	Ile	Gly	Leu	
			245						250						255	
Arg	Leu	Arg	Arg	Glu	Arg	Leu	Leu	Leu	Met	Gln	Glu	Ala	Lys	Gly	Arg	
			260						265						270	
Gly	Ser	Ala	Ala	Ala	Arg	Ser	Arg	Tyr	Thr	Cys	Arg	Leu	Gln	Gln	His	
275						280						285				
Asp	Arg	Gly	Arg	Arg	Gln	Val	Thr	Lys	Met	Leu	Phe	Val	Leu	Val	Val	
290						295						300				
Val	Phe	Gly	Ile	Cys	Trp	Ala	Pro	Phe	His	Ala	Asp	Arg	Val	Met	Trp	
305						310						315			320	
Ser	Val	Val	Ser	Gln	Trp	Thr	Asp	Gly	Leu	His	Leu	Ala	Phe	Gln	His	
			325						330						335	
Val	His	Val	Ile	Ser	Gly	Ile	Phe	Phe	Tyr	Leu	Gly	Ser	Ala	Ala	Asn	
			340						345						350	
Pro	Val	Leu	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Met	Ser	Ser	Arg	Phe	Arg	Glu	Thr	Phe	Gln	
355						360						365				
Glu	Ala	Leu	Cys	Leu	Gly	Ala	Cys	Cys	His	Arg	Leu	Arg	Pro	Arg	His	
370						375						380				
Ser	Ser	His	Ser	Leu	Ser	Arg	Met	Thr	Thr	Gly	Ser	Thr	Leu	Cys	Asp	
385						390						395			400	
Val	Gly	Ser	Leu	Gly	Ser	Trp	Val	His	Pro	Leu	Ala	Gly	Asn	Asp	Gly	
			405						410						415	
Pro	Glu	Ala	Gln	Gln	Glu	Thr	Asp	Pro	Ser							
			420						425							

<210>	3
<211>	1298

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 3

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atctggcctt cctctgcgga cctcggegcg gccacttctt cctccccgtg tctgtggtgt 180
atgtgccaat ttttgtggtg ggggtcattg gcaatgtcct ggtgtgcctg gtgattctgc 240
agcaccaggc tatgaagacg cccaccaact actacctctt cagcctggcg gtctctgacc 300
tcctggtcct gctccttgga atgccccctg aggtctatga gatgtggcgc aactaccctt 360
tcttgttcgg gcccggtggc tgctacttca agacggccct ctttgagacc gtgtgcttcg 420
cctccatcct cagcatcacc accgtcagcg tggagcgcta cgtggccatc ctacaccctt 480
tccgcgccaa actgcagagc acccggcgcg gggccctcag gatcctcggc atcgtctggg 540
gcttctccgt gctcttctcc ctgcccaaca ccagcatcca tggcatcaag ttccactact 600
tccccaatgg gtccctggtc ccagggttcg ccacctgtac ggtcatcaag cccatgtgga 660
tctacaattt catcatccag gtcacctcct tcctattcta cctcctcccc atgactgtca 720
tcagtgtcct ctactacctc atggcactca gactaaagaa agacaaatct cttgaggcag 780
atgaagggaa tgcaaatatt caaagaccct gcagaaaatc agtcaacaag atgctgtttg 840
tcttggctct agtgtttgct atctgttggg ccccgttcca cattgaccga ctcttcttca 900
gctttgtgga ggagtggagt gaatccctgg ctgctgtgtt caacctcgtc catgtggtgt 960
cagggtgtct cttctacctg agctcagctg tcaaccccat tatctataac ctactgtctc 1020
gccgcttcca ggcagcattc cagaatgtga tctcttcttt ccacaaacag tggcactccc 1080
agcatgaccc acagttgccg cctgcccagc ggaacatctt cctgacagaa tgccactttg 1140
tgagctgac cgaagatata ggtccccaat tcccatgtca gtcattcatg cacaactctc 1200
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<210> 4

<211> 415

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 4

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 1             5             10            15

Lys Leu Glu Asp Pro Phe Gln Lys His Leu Asn Ser Thr Glu Glu Tyr
      20             25            30

Leu Ala Phe Leu Cys Gly Pro Arg Arg Ser His Phe Phe Leu Pro Val
 35             40            45
```


Phe Lys Val Asp Glu Glu Phe Gln Gly Pro Ile Val Ser Gln Asn Arg
1 5 10 15

Arg Tyr Phe Leu Phe Arg Pro Arg Asn
20 25

<210> 7

<211> 23

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 7

Tyr Lys Val Asn Glu Tyr Gln Gly Pro Val Ala Pro Ser Gly Gly Phe
1 5 10 15

Phe Leu Phe Arg Pro Arg Asn
20

<210> 8

<211> 8

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 8

Tyr Phe Leu Phe Arg Pro Arg Asn
1 5

<210> 9

<211> 24

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 9

ccacgaagat cagcaggtat gtgg

24

<210> 18
<211> 16
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 18
caatggcagt gcggcc 16

<210> 19
<211> 20
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 19
ggtatgtggc acagatgggc 20

<210> 20
<211> 30
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 20
actttgaccc tgaggacttg aacctgactg 30

<210> 21
<211> 15
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 21
cctcggcgca gccac 15

<210> 22
 <211> 20
 <212> DNA
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
 <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 22
 gaatcaccag gcacaccagg 20

<210> 23
 <211> 20
 <212> DNA
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
 <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 23
 gaatcaccag gcacaccagg 20

<210> 24
 <211> 1231
 <212> DNA
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
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 cagtgcacta tcccttccgg tgtctgtggc ctatgcgctg atcttcctgg tgggggtaat 180
 gggcaatctt ctgggtgtgca tggtgattgt ccgacatcag actttgaaga caccaccaa 240
 ctactatctc ttcagcttgg cagtctcaga tctgctggtc ctgctcttgg ggatgcctct 300
 ggaaatctac gagatgtggc acaattaccc tttcctgttc gggcctgtgg gatgctactt 360
 caagacagcc ctcttcgaga ctgtgtgctt tgccctcatt ctcagtgtca ccacggttag 420
 cgtagagcgc tatgtggcca ttgtccaccc tttccgagcc aagctggaga gcacgcggcg 480
 acgggccctc aggatcctca gctagtctg gagcttctct gtggtctttt ctttgcccaa 540
 taccagcatc catggcatca agttccagca ctttcccaac gggctctccg tacctggctc 600
 agccacctgc acagtcacca aacctatgtg ggtgtataac ttgatcatcc aagctaccag 660
 ctctctcttc tacatcctcc caatgacct catcagcgtc ctctactacc tcatggggct 720
 caggctgaag agagatgaat cccttgaggc gaacaaagtg gctgtgaata ttcacagacc 780
 ctctagaaaag tcagtcacca agatgctgtt tgtcttggtc ctogtgtttg ccatctgctg 840
 gaccccttc catgtggacc ggctcttctt cagctttgtg gaagagtgga cagagtcctt 900

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ggctgctgtg ttcaacctca tccatgtggt atcaggtgtc ttctttttatc tgagctccgc 960
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tgtctcccct acctgcaa at ggtgccatcc cgggcacgg ccacagggac ctccagccca 1080
gaagatcatc ttcttgacag aatgtcacct cgtggagctg acagaggatg caggccccca 1140
gttcctgtgt cagtcaccca tccacaacac caaccttacc acggccccct gtgcaggaga 1200
ggtaccataa aaggagtgtt cagaaggcct c 1231

```

<210> 25

<211> 395

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 25

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Met Gly Lys Leu Glu Asn Ala Ser Trp Ile His Asp Pro Leu Met Lys
  1              5              10              15

```

```

Tyr Leu Asn Ser Thr Glu Glu Tyr Leu Ala His Leu Cys Gly Pro Lys
      20              25              30

```

```

Arg Ser Asp Leu Ser Leu Pro Val Ser Val Ala Tyr Ala Leu Ile Phe
      35              40              45

```

```

Leu Val Gly Val Met Gly Asn Leu Leu Val Cys Met Val Ile Val Arg
      50              55              60

```

```

His Gln Thr Leu Lys Thr Pro Thr Asn Tyr Tyr Leu Phe Ser Leu Ala
      65              70              75              80

```

```

Val Ser Asp Leu Leu Val Leu Leu Leu Gly Met Pro Leu Glu Ile Tyr
      85              90              95

```

```

Glu Met Trp His Asn Tyr Pro Phe Leu Phe Gly Pro Val Gly Cys Tyr
      100              105              110

```

```

Phe Lys Thr Ala Leu Phe Glu Thr Val Cys Phe Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser
      115              120              125

```

```

Val Thr Thr Val Ser Val Glu Arg Tyr Val Ala Ile Val His Pro Phe
      130              135              140

```

```

Arg Ala Lys Leu Glu Ser Thr Arg Arg Arg Ala Leu Arg Ile Leu Ser
      145              150              155              160

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Leu Val Trp Ser Phe Ser Val Val Phe Ser Leu Pro Asn Thr Ser Ile

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[illegible]

<210>	26
<211>	1292
<212>	DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

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tgaggacctg aggctgaagt acttggggcc acagcaggta aaacaatttt tgcccatctg 180
tgtcacgtac ctgttgatct tcgtagtggg cactctgggc aacgggttga cctgcaccgt 240
catcctgcg cagaaggcaa tgcacacgcc caccaacttc tacctcttca gtctcgcggt 300
gtccgatttg ctggtgctcc tgggtgggctt gccctggaa ctttatgaga tgcagcacia 360
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gcacccactc caagccaagt ctgtgatgac acggacctat gtgcgccgca tgttgggagc 540
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actctatgta cctgcccggg ggccgggtgcc cgattcagtt acgtgtacgc tgggtgcgtcc 660
ccagttcttc tacaagttgg taatacagac gaccatactg ctcttcttct gtctgccc 720
ggtcaccatc agtgtgctgt acctgctcat tgggctgagg ctgcggaggg agaggatgtt 780
gctccaagag gaggtaagg gcaggatata tgcagcagcc aggcaggcct cccacagaag 840
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<210> 27

<211> 413

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 27

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Met Glu Leu Ser Pro Asn Ala Ser Thr Gly Leu Leu Ser Cys Asn Asp
 1             5             10            15

Ser Glu Phe Lys Glu His Phe Asp Leu Glu Asp Leu Asn Leu Thr His
          20             25            30

Glu Asp Leu Arg Leu Lys Tyr Leu Gly Pro Gln Gln Val Lys Gln Phe
          35             40            45
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Leu	Pro	Ile	Cys	Val	Thr	Tyr	Leu	Leu	Ile	Phe	Val	Val	Gly	Thr	Leu	
50							55				60					
Gly	Asn	Gly	Leu	Thr	Cys	Thr	Val	Ile	Leu	Arg	Gln	Lys	Ala	Met	His	
65					70					75					80	
Thr	Pro	Thr	Asn	Phe	Tyr	Leu	Phe	Ser	Leu	Ala	Val	Ser	Asp	Leu	Leu	
				85					90					95		
Val	Leu	Leu	Val	Gly	Leu	Pro	Leu	Glu	Leu	Tyr	Glu	Met	Gln	His	Asn	
			100					105					110			
Tyr	Pro	Phe	Gln	Leu	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Cys	Tyr	Phe	Arg	Ile	Leu	Leu	
		115					120					125				
Leu	Glu	Thr	Val	Cys	Leu	Ala	Ser	Val	Leu	Asn	Val	Thr	Ala	Leu	Ser	
	130					135					140					
Val	Glu	Arg	Tyr	Val	Ala	Val	Val	His	Pro	Leu	Gln	Ala	Lys	Ser	Val	
145					150					155					160	
Met	Thr	Arg	Thr	His	Val	Arg	Arg	Met	Leu	Gly	Ala	Ile	Trp	Val	Phe	
				165					170					175		
Ala	Ile	Leu	Phe	Ser	Leu	Pro	Asn	Thr	Ser	Leu	His	Gly	Leu	Ser	Pro	
			180					185					190			
Leu	Tyr	Val	Pro	Cys	Arg	Gly	Pro	Val	Pro	Asp	Ser	Val	Thr	Cys	Thr	
		195					200					205				
Leu	Val	Arg	Pro	Gln	Phe	Phe	Tyr	Lys	Leu	Val	Ile	Gln	Thr	Thr	Ile	
	210					215					220					
Leu	Leu	Phe	Phe	Cys	Leu	Pro	Met	Val	Thr	Ile	Ser	Val	Leu	Tyr	Leu	
225				230						235					240	
Leu	Ile	Gly	Leu	Arg	Leu	Arg	Arg	Glu	Arg	Met	Leu	Leu	Gln	Glu	Glu	
				245					250					255		
Val	Lys	Gly	Arg	Ile	Ser	Ala	Ala	Ala	Arg	Gln	Ala	Ser	His	Arg	Ser	
			260					265					270			
Ile	Gln	Leu	Arg	Asp	Arg	Glu	Arg	Arg	Gln	Val	Thr	Lys	Met	Leu	Ile	
		275					280					285				
Ala	Leu	Val	Ile	Val	Phe	Gly	Thr	Cys	Trp	Val	Pro	Phe	His	Ala	Asp	
	290					295					300					

Arg Leu Met Trp Ser Met Val Ser His Trp Thr Asp Gly Leu Arg Leu
305 310 315 320

Ala Phe Gln Ser Val His Leu Ala Ser Gly Val Phe Leu Tyr Leu Gly
325 330 335

Ser Ala Ala Asn Pro Glu Leu Tyr Asn Leu Met Ser Thr Arg Phe Arg
340 345 350

Glu Ser Phe Arg Glu Thr Leu Gly Leu Gly Thr Arg Cys Cys His Arg
355 360 365

His Gln Pro Arg His Asp Ser His Ser His Leu Arg Leu Thr Thr Val
370 375 380

Ser Thr Leu Cys Asp Arg Asn Ser Arg Asp Val Pro Leu Ala Glu Asn
385 390 395 400

Arg Asp Pro Gly Cys Glu Gln Glu Thr Asp Pro Pro Glu
405 410

<210> 28

<211> 1371

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 28

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atgcttcaac gggcctcttg tcctgcaatg acagtgaagt caaggagcac ttgaccttg 180
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aacaattttt gcccatctgt gtcacgtacc tgttgatctt cgtagtgggc actctgggca 300
acgggttgac ctgcaccgtc atcctgcgcc agaaggcaat gcacacgcc accaacttct 360
acctcttcag tctcgcggtg tccgatttgc tgggtgctct ggtgggcttg cccctggaac 420
tttatgagat gcagcacaat taccattcc agctgggtgc aggtggctgt tacttccgga 480
tactgctttt ggagactgtc tgctggctt cagtgtcaa tgtcacagcc ctaagtgtgg 540
agcgttatgt ggccgtggtg caccactcc aagccaagtc tgtgatgaca cggacctatg 600
tgcgccgcat gttgggagcc atctgggtct tcgtattct cttctctctg cccaacacca 660
gcttacatgg cctcagtcca ctctatgtac cctgcggggg gccggtgccc gattcagtta 720
cgtgtacgct ggtgcgtccc cagttcttct acaagttggt aatacagacg accatactgc 780
tcttcttctg tctgcccatg gtcaccatca gtgtgctgta cctgctcatt gggctgaggc 840
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ggcaggcctc ccacagaagt attcagcttc gagataggga acgcagacag gtgaccaaga 960
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tcatgtccac	tgcgttcgga	gagtccttcc	gggaaacctt	gggccttggg	acacgggtgct	1200
gtcatcgcca	ccaaccgcgt	cacgactccc	atagccacct	taggttgacc	acagtcagca	1260
ccctgtgtga	caggaacagc	agggatgtac	ccctggctga	gaacagggat	ccagggtgtg	1320
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<210> 29

<211> 439

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

 $\langle 220 \rangle$

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 29

Met Asp Phe Leu Ser Gln Cys His Phe Phe Leu Ile Cys Lys Met Gly
1 5 10 15

Leu Leu Ser Arg Lys Arg Arg His Ser Gln Leu Arg Leu Ser Pro Asn
20 25 30

Ala Ser Thr Gly Leu Leu Ser Cys Asn Asp Ser Glu Phe Lys Glu His
35 40 45

Phe Asp Leu Glu Asp Leu Asn Leu Thr His Glu Asp Leu Arg Leu Lys
50 55 60

Tyr Leu Gly Pro Gln Gln Val Lys Gln Phe Leu Pro Ile Cys Val Thr
65 70 75 80

Tyr Leu Leu Ile Phe Val Val Gly Thr Leu Gly Asn Gly Leu Thr Cys
85 90 95

Thr Val Ile Leu Arg Gln Lys Ala Met His Thr Pro Thr Asn Phe Tyr
100 105 110

Leu Phe Ser Leu Ala Val Ser Asp Leu Leu Val Leu Leu Val Gly Leu
115 120 125

Pro Leu Glu Leu Tyr Glu Met Gln His Asn Tyr Pro Phe Gln Leu Gly
130 135 140

Ala Gly Gly Cys Tyr Phe Arg Ile Leu Leu Leu Glu Thr Val Cys Leu
145 150 155 160

Ala Ser Val Leu Asn Val Thr Ala Leu Ser Val Glu Arg Tyr Val Ala

420

425

430

Gln Glu Thr Asp Pro Pro Glu
435

<210> 30

<211> 23

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 30

tacctgctga tcttcgtggt ggg

23

<210> 31

<211> 24

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 31

cagtgc aaac agcatcttgg tcac

24

<210> 32

<211> 25

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 32

tatgtggccg tggcgcccc actcc

25

<210> 33

<211> 27

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 37

cccaagtact tcagcctcag gtcc

24

<210> 38

<211> 24

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 38

ggtcaaccgc ttgccagag tgcc

24

<210> 39

<211> 24

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 39

tctatgagat gtggcgcaac tacc

24

<210> 40

<211> 24

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 40

aacactaaga ccaagacaaa cagc

24

<210> 41

<211> 24

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 41

gtcaccacgg ttagcgtaga gcgc

24

<210> 42

<211> 24

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 42

gagggctctgt gaatattcac agcc

24

<210> 43

<211> 45

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 43

cccaacgggt cctccgtacc tggctcagcc acctgcacag tcacc

45

<210> 44

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: primer/probe

<400> 44

gcctgtggga tgctacttca ag

22

<210> 45

<211> 20

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

